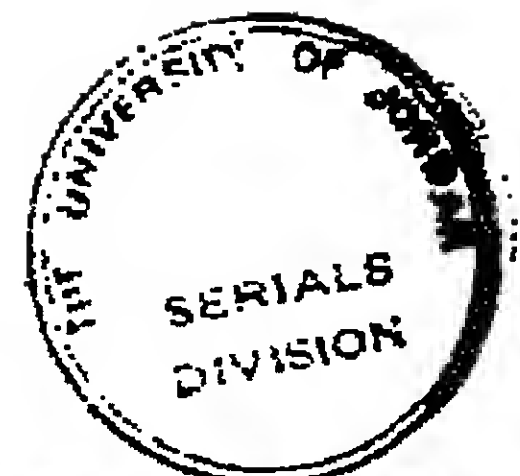


## U.S. official sees special Gulf tax

BOCA RATON, Florida (R) — The head of the U.S. Senate Budget Committee called Saturday for President George Bush to impose a special tax to finance war in the Gulf if fighting breaks out. "If the situation deteriorates, if we get into a full-blown war in the Middle East, I think it is going to be incumbent on the president perhaps to propose some type of surtax or some other type of measure to pay for the war," said the budget committee chairman, James Sasser, a Democrat. "We simply cannot continue to borrow to finance a war to protect the oil supply for our friends in Japan and Western Europe," Sasser told reporters after addressing the Securities Industry Association (SIA) convention. The tax might take the form of a temporary income surcharge, such as the 10 per cent levy imposed in 1969 to finance the Vietnam war, Sasser said. Sasser noted U.S. allies have failed to provide substantial financing for the military presence in Saudi Arabia.

# Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published by the Jordan Press Foundation  
جوردان تايمز يومية مستقلة تصدر عن المؤسسة الصحفية الأردنية



## Syria ready to deploy more troops

ABU DHABI (AP) — Syrian Defence Minister Mustafa Tlas says Damascus is ready to send more troops to the Gulf to help confront Iraq, the state-owned Al Itihad daily reported Saturday. "Our forces in Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates (UAE) are to defend these two countries and we are ready to increase their number to half a million if requested" by King Fahd of Saudi Arabia and Sheikh Zayed, president of the UAE, he said. Syria's armed forces total some 400,000 men, with about the same number of reserves. But the flamboyant Tlas' mention of deploying as many as 500,000 men was seen as a means of emphasising Syria's commitment to the U.S.-led multinational force in the Gulf rather than a pledge to send virtually half of Syria's military manpower to the region. Syria is a bitter rival of Iraq. But it has some 40,000 troops in Lebanon and several divisions on Iraq's northern border. It is also unlikely to strip its defences against Israel to bolster a force that by mid-January will total in excess of 550,000 personnel.

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## 50th American casualty in S. Arabia

SAUDI ARABIA (AP) — An American soldier was killed Saturday in a tactical fight with the 4th tactical fighter wing's civil engineering squadron was killed Saturday in a vehicle accident, military officials said. The accident occurred at 5:40 a.m. at an air base in Saudi Arabia, and the air force is investigating. He was the 50th U.S. serviceman to die since the deployment began. Of those, two were from natural causes and one was a suicide.

## Sudan to use conscripts against rebels

KHARTOUM (R) — All Sudanese aged between 16 and 70 are to be conscripted into a militia fighting southern rebels, an official newspaper said Saturday. Al Hadeth newspaper quoted Brigadier Babiker Abdul Mahmud, commander of the Popular Defence Forces, as saying the call-up would take place over five years. It gave no other details. The militia was formed a year ago to help the regular army fight the Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA), which has been battling since 1983 for more autonomy for southern regions.

## Bush 'trial' in Algiers called off

ALGIERS (R) — Lawyers organising a mock trial of U.S. President George Bush over the Gulf crisis cancelled the event Saturday after criticism from the Algerian government. Ali Ammar Laouar, president of a preparatory committee, said the government had in effect banned the event by denouncing it on Friday as interference in the country's foreign policy.

## Seven Iraqis executed in Kuwait

NICOSIA (AP) — Iraqi authorities have hanged seven Iraqis in Kuwait for burglary and other crimes, Baghdad's Al Jumhuriya daily reported Saturday. Six of the men had been convicted by a civilian criminal court of stealing from several premises in Kuwait City, the newspaper said. The seventh, a goldsmith, was convicted of buying a "large quantity of jewellery" from the thieves, the daily said. It reported that the victims of the burglaries witnessed the executions.

## Somali minister arrives in Cairo

CAIRO (AP) — Somali Foreign Minister Ahmad Mohammad Aden arrived Saturday in Cairo where he will meet his Egyptian counterpart Esmat Abdul Meguid to discuss peace talks on Somalia to be held here later this month. The government-run Middle East News Agency (MENA) said Aden's visit to Egypt came in response to Abdul Meguid's invitation. It said he will stay here a few days but did not specify when the two ministers will meet. Cairo will host Somali government and rebel representatives on Dec. 11 and 12 in talks aimed at ending the insurgency and violence in that country. Italy, Somalia's former colonial ruler, will also attend the peace talks. But the Somali National Movement said neither it nor two other major rebel groups planned to attend what it described as a "bogus meeting."

## Mozambique, rebels reach partial truce

ROME (AP) — The Mozambique government and the Renamo rebel group Saturday reached a partial ceasefire agreement which will be monitored by eight countries, including the United States and the Soviet Union. The accord, signed in Rome after a mediation effort by Italy and a Roman Catholic charity organisation, would lead to the grouping of an estimated 30,000 Zimbabwe troops, who are assisting the Mozambique government, into two corridors in the Beira and Limpopo River area. The agreement provides for the eight-nation monitoring committee, Mozambique, the Renamo group said Italy to meet around mid-December in Rome to coordinate efforts to end the 15-year-old civil war.

# Iraq accepts U.S. call for talks, says Palestine issue should be included

Combined agency dispatches

THE IRAQI government Saturday welcomed talks to resolve the Gulf crisis, but urged U.S. President George Bush to accept a "serious and deep dialogue" that would include the Palestinian question, the Iraqi News Agency (INA) reported.

The Revolutionary Command Council chaired by President Saddam Hussein issued a statement that was receptive but wary in response to Bush's offer, the news agency said.

"Palestine and the other occupied Arab territories remain before our eyes and at the forefront of the issues that we will discuss in any dialogue," the statement said (see full text on page 4).

Earlier Saturday, thousands of Iraqis chanted "Death to Bush" in government-orchestrated protests in Baghdad and other cities.

Iraq's policy will "be as it has always been, conducting a serious and deep dialogue and not holding informal meetings with America's president has wanted," said the council statement.

U.S. Charge d'Affaires Joe Wilson had a brief meeting on Saturday evening with Foreign Ministry Under Secretary Nizar Hamdoun, official sources said.

A U.S. embassy spokesman would confirm only that Wilson had met a senior Iraqi official and said any further news on the meeting would be released in Washington.

Hours after winning U.N. authorisation to go to war, Bush on Friday offered to send Secretary of State James Baker to Baghdad and invited Iraqi Foreign Minister Tariq Aziz to Washington.

Interviewed on a U.S. television programme, Vice-President Dan Quayle made it clear that the U.S. position had not changed, saying on Saturday, "there is no linkage."

The abrupt turnaround by Bush in seeking the talks was generally greeted with a sigh of relief in Congress and from critics at home and abroad.

House of Representatives Democratic leader Richard Gephardt, who previously had sniped at Bush's apparent openness to the use of force in the Gulf, Friday called the offer sound and said Iraq should learn from it that Americans were "united in our determination to see them end their occupation of Kuwait forthwith."

"I welcome the president's peace initiative," said Senator Edward Kennedy, a Democrat on the Armed Services Committee which last week held hearings that fielded a succession of witnesses critical of Bush's Gulf policy.

The exact timing for any visits have not yet been completed. Bush said he hoped Saddam would meet Baker "at a mutually convenient time" between Dec. 15 and Jan. 15. He invited Aziz to Washington for consultations during the week of Dec. 10.

## Bush offer to Iraq draws wide international support

Combined agency dispatches

U.S. PRESIDENT George Bush's offer to open direct talks with Iraq over the Gulf crisis has drawn wide international welcome, including members of the American-led anti-Iraq alliance and countries which are seen sympathetic to the Iraqi cause.

Bush telephoned Saudi Arabia's King Fahd and Kuwait's emir Jaber Al Sabah Friday night to discuss the Gulf crisis, the Saudi Press Agency reported.

The telephone diplomacy took place after Bush invited Iraqi Foreign Minister Tariq Aziz to Washington for talks on the Gulf crisis. He also offered to send Secretary of State James Baker to Baghdad.

The Saudi agency said in a separate report that King Fahd also received a call from Egyptian leader Hosni Mubarak, a key ally in the anti-Iraq alliance.

Saudi Arabian and Kuwait officials said Friday that they welcomed the offer by Bush to meet with Iraqi officials, but stressed that they are ready for war.

"It's either heads or tails. Either withdrawal completely or be kicked out of Kuwait," said Mohammad Khayat, an official with the Saudi Arabian Ministry of Information.

Hassan Abdul Aziz, a professor at Kuwait University and a volunteer in the Kuwaiti information office in Saudi Arabia, said he doubted whether diplomacy would work.

Baghdad said then the Gulf crisis must be solved in tandem with other Middle East issues, especially the Arab-Israeli conflict. It made no mention of withdrawing from Kuwait.

Western leaders refuse to link the issues but say a resolution of the Gulf crisis could clear the way for a Palestinian settlement.

Bush made his offer hours after the U.N. Security Council voted by 12 votes to two, with China abstaining, to authorise force to drive Iraq out of Kuwait if it refused to withdraw by January 15.

Bush insisted Baker's visit would be aimed only at spelling out the consequences of refusing to comply with the U.N. resolution and would not be "a trip of concession."

But he disclosed that Iraq had on Friday started resupplying the besieged U.S. embassy in Kuwait. "Let's try to be optimistic. This could be a positive sign," he said.

On Saturday, the Bush administration was weighing its next step in light of Baghdad's decision to accept the invitation.

The Iraqi statement said exact dates and arrangements for the visits of Baker to Baghdad and Aziz to Washington would be agreed when an official invitation reached Baghdad.

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Kissinger sees 'error'

Former U.S. Secretary of State Henry Kissinger said in a television interview he believed Bush's decision to send Baker to Iraq could jeopardise an Iraqi withdrawal from Kuwait.

"I have not been this worried in decades as I am tonight," said Kissinger, who served as secretary of state under Presidents

peace conference and international protection for our people under (Iraqi) occupation," he said.

In Khartoum, a government spokesman said Sudanese military ruler Omar Al Bashir welcomed Bush's call for negotiations as a step in the right direction.

Al Sadiq Bakheit, Bashir's press adviser, told a news conference: "We hope that wisdom will reign and that all will come back to reason as the new U.S. initiative, if it is genuine, constitutes a return to consciousness of the horrible hazards of a war between Iraq and the foreign troops amassed in the Middle East."

In London, the Foreign Office issued a statement saying it welcomed "anything that would secure full implementation of the Security Council resolutions" that call for Iraq to vacate Kuwait.

"As President Bush himself has said, nothing less than a complete Iraqi withdrawal would be tolerated."

French officials said two French aircraft were going to N'djamena to be ready to fly home French citizens, who had been asked to assemble.

President Francois Mitterrand's spokesman said: "France has taken all necessary measures to protect French citizens in view of the worsening situation in Chad."

France had been in contact with the speaker of the Chadian assembly, who appeared to be the only senior government figure still in the capital, the spokesman told French radio.

Military experts familiar with Chad's decades of civil war said they had expected Habre to flee N'djamena, probably to take his 12,000-man army to his home base in the remote Tibesti mountains.

Habre's men are desert combatants, not city fighters. They took N'djamena in 1982 without fighting," one expert said, referring to Habre's defeat of former President Goukouni Oueddei.

There are more than 1,000 French troops in N'djamena and Abeche, based there since Paris moved to help Habre crush previous incursions by rebels backed by Libya.

Mitterrand's Africa experts have decided that France should not intervene this time, on the grounds that Libya is not involved.

The chief spokesman on African affairs, Cooperation Minister Jacques Pelletier, said on television: "I don't think one can say that we have abandoned Habre too quickly. Our policy is not to intervene in internal conflicts."

France would act only if its nationals were threatened or if Chad faced foreign attack, he said. Paris believed the current fighting was "not a foreign invasion."

Libya has denied Chadian and U.S. charges that Deby, who launched his rebel offensive from neighbouring Sudan three weeks ago, is armed and aided by Libya.

In the past, Washington has provided Habre with planes, trucks and ammunition, but those supplies appeared to have dried up, diplomats said.

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## Crown Prince extends cautious welcome to U.S. move to open contacts with Iraq

AMMAN (J.T.) — The American move to establish direct contact with Iraq over the Gulf crisis is a welcome development as long as its ultimate goal is to address the basic roots of the conflict and regional peace, not a tactic to gain time, His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan said Saturday.

In two television interviews, the Crown Prince also underlined the need for urgent political and diplomatic action to address the Palestinian problem, particularly in light of recent statements by Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir that Israel would keep the occupied Arab territories for Jewish immigrants.

"The bitterness today, particularly the polarisation of religious extremes which seem to be almost taking over from a conflict

of sovereign, is very, very worrying," the Crown Prince said in an interview with Britain's World Television News (WTN). "Unless political and diplomatic action is taken soon, it will be very difficult to retrace the original thread of argument, particularly with the changes taking place in the occupied territories so swiftly and of course the question of further migration into the occupied territories which Mr. Shamir touched on in his last remarks," he said.

The Gulf crisis was the focal theme in an interview Cable News Network (CNN) had with the Crown Prince. In the interview, the Crown Prince pointed out that one of the essential components of Security Council Resolution 660 is a call for direct negotiations between Iraq and Kuwait to settle their conflict

under the umbrella of the Arab League. "Paragraph 3 of Resolution 660 has to be fully implemented," he said.

The Crown Prince voiced hope that the latest American initiative, proposed by President George Bush Friday, would offer the opportunity for both the U.S. and Iraq to move towards resolving the Gulf crisis without losing face.

At the same time, he also expressed hope that the American move was not a tactic aimed at gaining time for U.S. troops to complete their deployment in Saudi Arabia and elsewhere in the Gulf. "Both parties, over the past few weeks, have made statements... Iraq made statements about the release of hostages and moved troops, President Bush yesterday made a statement of

initiating discussions with the Iraqi foreign minister and correspondingly a visit by the secretary of state to Baghdad and again moved 300 aircraft, and 200,000 troops would be in position by the end of January," he pointed out. "Let us hope that this is not a tactic; that it is really a strategic investment in peace not only between Iraq and Kuwait but also in the Gulf region as a whole."

In his comments to WTN on the same subject, the Crown Prince said the American move, in principle, represented what Jordan had always called for. While he said he did not know whether Jordan had any direct or indirect role in producing such an initiative, "certainly indirectly it is an indication of everything that

(Continued on page 5)

masked assailants Saturday entered the military government's clinic and stabbed to death one of the cleaning women, Arab reports said.

In the Rafah refugee camp, attackers broke into the home of Ali Mohammad Khatib, 28, Friday, and killed him with shots to the chest and head.

When Khatib's brother tried to stop the attackers, they wounded him with a shot in the chest, Arab reports said.

The army confirmed the killings, and said police were investigating.

The death in Jerusalem raised to 774 the number of Palestinians slain by Israelis. Fifty-two Israelis have also died in the violence.

Also Saturday, an army patrol opened fire after being stoned in the marketplace of the town of Rafah, wounding 12 Palestinian teenagers, hospital officials said.

In the West Bank, troops wounded two Arab youths during demonstrations marking a year since Israeli forces killed four members of a Palestinian group accused of killing Arab collaborators, Palestinians said.

Troops Friday critically wounded another alleged member of the group in the West Bank's Jenin refugee camp. The group, the Black Panthers, is affiliated to the Palestine Liberation Organisation's Fatah mainstream body.

Police closed an Arab Jerusalem school for 24 hours after a Palestinian youth Saturday threw two cans of burning glue at two Jewish seminary students in Jerusalem's Old City, Israeli radio said. No one was injured.

The youth fled into the school after the attack, the police said.

Sam Kernell, a specialist on presidents and public opinion at the University of California, San Diego, said the fact that "ordinary members of Congress are beginning to speak out" has two meanings: Politicians are sensing where public sentiment is shifting and that shift will gain momentum as more politicians weigh in.

Witnesses at Senate hearings may hedge and offer subtleties and caveats, but "what the American people are hearing is that war doesn't make sense right now."

It's not that people don't understand why Bush is taking on Iraq, contends Robert W. Tucker, a retired professor of diplomacy at Johns Hopkins University. They do, but they don't think Bush's reasons justify going to war, they don't see "a case of national necessity."

"Neither reasonably priced oil nor international order nor even the prospect of an Iraq stripped of weapons of mass destruction" has persuaded the public "to accept the hazards of war in the

## Israeli soldiers kill Palestinian woman

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (Agencies) — Israeli police Saturday shot to death a Palestinian woman after she tried to stab a policeman near Jerusalem's walled Old City, police and radio reports said.

The policeman was not hurt because he was wearing a flak jacket. The protective jackets became mandatory for police patrols in Arab Jerusalem after a spate of stabbing attacks by Palestinians against police in the wake of the Oct. 8 massacre of over 20 Palestinians at Haram Al Sharif.

Saturday's incident began at about 10:40 a.m. when police questioned three Palestinians at the Arab Jerusalem bus station opposite the Old City's Damascus Gate, Israeli radio said.

Suddenly a woman emerged from the crowd and lunged towards one of the policemen with a knife, a police spokesman said. The knife did not penetrate the flak jacket.

Another policeman opened fire, shooting the woman in the head. She was taken in serious condition to Jerusalem's Hadasah hospital where she later died, police said.

The woman, in her 40s, wore a traditional embroidered Palestinian dress and pink headscarf, a witness told the AP.

She could not be identified because she did not carry an ID card, the radio said.

Another policeman suffered cuts in the hand during the scuffle with the assailant.

In the occupied Gaza Strip, two suspected Palestinian informers were killed by masked assailants.

In the Bureij refugee camp, after the attack, the police said.

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telephone in Beirut, told the Associated Press: "We lost contact with the base immediately after it was attacked."

The spokesman, who refused to be named, said the base along "with the rest of our positions in Lebanon have been generally evacuated since the clash with the Zionist enemy on Nov. 20."

"We were expecting the attack. That's why we ordered all our forces to evacuate the bases," he said.

The front, headed by Samir Ghosheh, is a faction within the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO).

The raid was Israel's 20th air strike in Lebanon this year. By police count, 20 people have been killed and 67 wounded in the air raids.

The jets struck Saturday at Lebanon's Foreign Ministry said it instructed its mission at the United Nations to lodge a complaint with the Security Council about Israel's "repeated violation of Lebanon's sovereignty."

On Tuesday, Israeli warplanes blasted a base used by Palestinian Abu Nidal's Fateh-Revolutionary Council faction near the southern port city of Sidon and a nearby base manned by the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine. Five guerrillas were killed.

A PSF spokesman, reached by

## Bush seen losing public support

WASHINGTON (AP) — Just as he has won the world's authority to wage war against Iraq, U.S. President George Bush is losing the assent of many of his own citizens.

The country may be losing its appetite for going to war.

The Roman Catholic clergy is dubious; the polls have turned against the president's handling of the crisis; and now politicians are embracing an argument he seems to be abandoning — that economic sanctions against Iraq will work if given enough time.

Bush's task in carrying public opinion with him is likely to become even more difficult now that some old soldiers — like Admiral William Crowe and Air Force General David Jones, both former chairmen of the Joint Chiefs of Staff — are speaking out against immediate hostilities. They say sanctions should be given more time to work.

The criticism of Bush's policies legitimises dissent.

"People pay attention to these people," said John E. Mueller, author of "Wars, Presidents and Public Opinion" and a political scientist at the University of Rochester. "Their job is to figure out things for the American people, and the people listen."

Doubts about the immediate necessity of a war are likely to grow now that the United Nations Security Council has set a Jan. 15 deadline for Iraq to pull out of Kuwait.

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(Continued on page 5)

New medical books  
New computer books  
at the University of Jordan exhibition



# U.S. unlikely to block mild resolution to protect Palestinians

UNITED NATIONS (AP) — The United States, having won Security Council sanction for the use of force against Iraq, indicated Friday that it would not veto a moderate resolution on protection of Palestinians in the Israeli-occupied territories.

The Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) meanwhile, complained that the U.S. government had stalled in granting a visa to the PLO's foreign minister, Farouk Qaddoumi, to attend the annual General Assembly debate on Palestinians.

The United States, which has no diplomatic relations with the PLO, granted the visa Wednesday night and Qaddoumi was expected to visit New York next week on U.N. business and was likely to address the assembly.

Western diplomats, speaking on condition of anonymity, said the United States had let the PLO and its allies know that if they didn't inject the Palestine issue into debate on Thursday, the U.S. government would seriously consider a moderate resolution on Palestinians and might abstain, allowing it to pass.

On Thursday, at U.S. urging, the council authorised the United States and its allies in the Gulf to use military force to expel Iraq from Kuwait if it does not withdraw by Jan. 15.

The United States, president of the council for the month of November, had not wanted the

Palestinian issue to interfere with its push for approval of the use-of-force resolution on Thursday.

A negative vote or an abstention from the United States on a tough resolution calling for U.N. observers to protect Palestinians in the occupied territories could offend the Arab members of the coalition against Iraq.

The United States succeeded in putting off the Palestinian issue until Yemen takes over the presidency of the council in December. The question of protecting Palestinians is expected to be taken up next week.

The PLO, Yemen, Cuba, Colombia and Malaysia had complained bitterly that the United States had blocked consideration of their original resolution, which had been presented to the council more than three weeks ago.

That resolution, which was certain to provoke a U.S. veto, called for deployment of U.N. observers in the Israeli-occupied territories to safeguard Palestinians from human rights abuses. It also called for a meeting of the 164 high contracting parties to the Fourth Geneva Convention to ensure that Israel protects civilians in the occupied territories.

Israel has rejected such a resolution and said it expects a veto from its U.S. ally.

But this week Finland presented a milder counter-resolution, calling for a U.N.

ombudsman, with U.N. support, to look into the Palestinian situation. It also welcomed convening a conference to ensure protection of Palestinian rights.

Israel rejects that formulation as well. But Israeli sources indicated the Finnish proposal was not as offensive as the original resolution.

Meanwhile, the General Assembly continued discussion Friday of the Palestinian situation. Most speakers called for Israel's withdrawal from the territories it has occupied since the 1967 war and for an international Middle East peace conference.

Israeli Ambassador Yoram Aridor, in a speech to the assembly Friday, repeated Israel's position that it was ready to make peace with its neighbours on a bilateral basis, as it had done with Egypt.

Aridor also complained that the United Nations, which now condemns Iraq for overrunning Kuwait, "in 1948 did nothing to stop the combined onslaught of seven of its Arab member-states who pounced upon Israel in order to destroy the new Jewish state."

Israel's right to exist, he said, had been recognised in the mandate of the League of Nations and the U.N. General Assembly.

"Israel, the only democracy in the Middle East, gets special, separate and unequal treatment from this assembly on a consistent basis," he said.

# Ali delays departure from Iraq

BAGHDAD (Agencies) — American boxing great Mohammad Ali postponed a planned departure from Baghdad with 15 companions Saturday and aides said he was negotiating to have three more released.

The aides said Ali made the move after Friday night's surprise offer by U.S. President George Bush to send Secretary of State James Baker to Baghdad for talks on the Gulf crisis.

The aides gave no other details. Ali and his group had been scheduled to fly to Amman aboard an Iraqi Airways flight.

The aides said Ali's group will seek meetings with senior Iraqi officials and may leave Baghdad Sunday or Monday, depending on the outcome of those meetings.

Ali's manager and spokesman, Jaber Mohammad, said Friday that the 15 Americans had all been held at strategic sites in Iraq.

Ali, a former world heavyweight boxing champion, has been in Baghdad more than a week with two aides and members of the Coalition to Stop U.S. Intervention in the Middle East.

On his self-described mission to win the release of foreign nationals and seeks a peaceful solution to the crisis, Ali met with President Saddam Hussein this week.

Two Norwegians held in Iraq will leave the country Sunday while a third Norwegian aims to go home next day, the Oslo Foreign Ministry said.

Iraqi authorities earlier this week promised that four Norwegians would be permitted to leave Iraq immediately while another five would be allowed to go home before Christmas.

"Two will leave Iraq on Sunday and travel via Moscow. They will be in Oslo on Tuesday morning," Foreign Ministry spokesman Bjorn Blokkhus said.

A group of Japanese led by a

former professional wrestler arrived in Baghdad Saturday hoping to win freedom for up to 30 Japanese.

Japanese diplomatic sources said Upper House Member Antonio Inoki, a retired wrestler, was accompanied by 25 relatives of Japanese held in Iraq.

There are 239 Japanese unable to leave Iraq and 119 of them are being held at key installations.

Saddam has offered to free the 2,000 Western and Japanese over a three-month period starting from Christmas day as a gesture of goodwill.

The Japanese sources said Socialist Party leader Takako Doi was expected to arrive in Baghdad on Dec. 10 at the invitation of First Deputy Prime Minister Taha Yassin Ramadan. She was expected to appeal for the release of more Japanese.

They said former Prime Minister Yasuhiro Nakasone was due to return to Baghdad Dec. 15. Nakasone was in the Iraqi capital last month, when he managed to secure the release of scores of Japanese.

"This is a groundless and grotesque claim which I firmly reject," retorted Carlsson, a Social Democrat.

"Instead of rejoicing in the fact that the Swedes are now home again, Carl Bildt chooses to start a domestic political row," the prime minister told it.

Carlsson's letter was read to the Iraqi National Assembly on Monday before it voted to free the Swedes.

It was published in Sweden for the first time Friday as the 53 Swedish nationals arrived at Stockholm's Arlanda airport.

"Sweden honestly considers that the basic conflict in the region is the Palestinian question and that there can be no durable peace in the region before this problem has been solved," Carlsson said in the letter.

It is the Swedish government's view that it is not only Kuwait which is occupied by foreign troops, there is also the Israeli occupation of the West Bank and Gaza and the Israeli and Syrian troops in Lebanon," the letter said.

Opposition Liberal Party leader Bengt Westerberg said it was inappropriate to compare Iraq with Israel and called on Carlsson to clarify Swedish foreign policy.

Although Sweden earlier sharply condemned Iraq's invasion and annexation of Kuwait, the letter does not explicitly do so.

In it, Carlsson said Sweden believed a military solution to the Gulf crisis must be avoided and was prepared to do its utmost to achieve a peaceful settlement on the basis of U.N. resolutions.

He pledged continuing Swedish efforts to secure peace but said this was difficult if its citizens were held against their will in an Arab country.

Neutral Sweden, which is observing the U.N. trade embargo against Iraq, has no military forces in the Gulf.

# Pakistan promises 10,000 more troops to Gulf

ISLAMABAD (AP) — Pakistan has agreed to send at least 10,000 more soldiers to join the multinational force in Saudi Arabia, a Foreign Ministry spokesman said Saturday.

The report came two days after the Kuwaiti ambassador said Gulf countries were prepared to give Pakistan a half-billion dollars in aid, although Gulf officials denied the funding was linked to the additional troop deployment.

Representatives of Gulf states have bombarded Pakistan's new prime minister, Nawaz Sharif, with requests for more troops, the government spokesman said on condition he not be identified.

Pakistan promised to send 5,000 soldiers to the kingdom after Iraq's Aug. 2 invasion of Kuwait.

So far only 2,000 have been deployed, although the government official said the remaining 3,000 were expected to leave for Saudi Arabia later this month.

U.S. troops in the Gulf region number about 240,000, and other countries have deployed about 100,000. The forces face an esti-

mated 450,000 Iraqi troops in Kuwait and southern Iraq.

A front-page story in the *Nation*, an English-language daily newspaper, claimed Saturday that Pakistan would send 10,000 infantry troops to Saudi Arabia by Jan. 15, the U.N.-imposed deadline for the withdrawal of Iraqi soldiers from Kuwait.

The Foreign Ministry spokesman said Pakistan had "agreed in principle" to send at least 10,000 more soldiers, but that the exact number of troops and logistics had yet to be decided.

He said Pakistan had yet to decide whether to also send an armoured division, something Saudi Arabia has repeatedly requested. An armoured division numbers 20,000 troops.

Pakistan, which relied on Kuwait for most of its refined oil products, has been hit hard by the Iraqi invasion and subsequent economic sanctions against Iraq.

This economically troubled country of 110 million people has requested emergency aid particularly from Saudi Arabia.

# Alleged drug barons in Pakistan parliament

By Kathy Gannon  
The Associated Press

ISLAMABAD — An alleged drug baron and two men suspected of opium dealing are members of the new parliament, creating speculation that Pakistan's already sluggish anti-drug campaign may founder.

Officials say about 30 tonnes of heroin are shipped from Pakistan every year. Domestic and foreign narcotics officers have criticised successive governments for failing to stop the trade.

"They have not been able to successfully prosecute and imprison what you would call a major" drug figure, a narcotics agent said, in condition of anonymity.

The United States, frustrated by the lack of action, has threatened to cut off more than \$500 million in economic and military aid that already has been frozen because of suspicion that Pakistan is developing nuclear weapons.

Ayub Khan Afridi, said to be one of Pakistan's main drug traffickers, won a National Assembly seat in the Oct. 24 elections. At least two other successful candidates are suspected of large-scale involvement in the opium trade.

A diplomat said, also on condition of anonymity: "We've told them, 'You have a hand in the National Assembly that everyone recognises are ear-deep in the heroin trade. It's only going to get worse.'"

"It's the National Assembly that passes the laws, and if criminals are influencing how the law is written, you can pass some pretty ineffective laws."

In 1985, Afridi was convicted in absentia and sentenced to one year in jail after failing to show up in court to answer charges of drug trafficking. Records also show at least five outstanding arrest warrants on similar charges.

Several anti-drug agencies in Pakistan and abroad have sought Afridi's arrest, but with no success. Afridi dismisses the allegations as a baseless slander campaign conducted by former Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto during her 20 months in power.

"That's rubbish," said Zahid Sarfraz, interior minister in the caretaker government that replaced Bhutto when she was dismissed in August. Sarfraz, who was in charge of narcotics control, said the drug charges against Afridi had nothing to do with politics.

Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif's new government created a narcotics ministry and put Rana Chander Singh in charge. Analysts doubt that Singh, a Hindu, will be able to penetrate the orthodox Muslim tribal country where the drug trade is based.

The tribal area, where opium and heroin are produced, is a lawless strip of rough terrain along the border with Afghanistan where Pakistani authorities have little authority.

As one narcotics agent described it: "The tribal area is a sanctuary where they can operate virtually with impunity."

Drug raids and arrests are made periodically, and some are impressive.

In a single raid last month in Baluchistan province, near the border with Afghanistan and Iran, narcotics officials confiscated 1,740 kilograms of heroin with an estimated street value of \$130 million, plus 8,000 kilograms of hashish, semi-automatic rifles, missile launchers and chemicals used to manufacture heroin.

At least one person charged after the raid is a member of the Baluchistan provincial assembly and of the province's governing party.

Such raids are highly publicised, but Pakistani and foreign narcotics officials say only small-time operators and couriers go to jail.

Sarfraz, the former interior minister, found one of the outstanding arrest warrants for Afridi shortly before turning the ministry over to his successor, but could not order the arrest after he left office.

Although a spokesman for the Sharif government said Afridi's arrest was imminent, he apparently is back in the sanctuary of the tribal area.

# Experts say U.S. crying wolf over Iraq

WASHINGTON (AP) — Atomic experts clashed Friday over whether Iraq possesses a nuclear device, and Democrats accused President George Bush of overstating the immediate threat.

"The overwhelming impression that was given by these statements is of an Iraq that is of imminent nuclear danger to us almost immediately," said Sen. John Glenn. "I think they're overblown."

Three nuclear experts debated Iraq's nuclear weapons programme during Senate Armed Services Committee hearings that came one week after Bush raised the nuclear specter in a visit with U.S. troops in the Gulf.

Bush told the troops Iraq is further along in its nuclear weapons programme than previously thought. This past Wednesday, the White House said Bush had received intelligence briefings that led him to conclude Iraq had a nuclear capability "that could come to fruition within months."

Democrats questioned whether the administration's assessment was based on recent polls that showed the American people would support the use of military force in the Gulf to destroy Iraq's nuclear weapons programme.

Sen. Albert Gore said during hearings Thursday that the administration's pronouncements on Iraq's nuclear potential are "clearly misleading, overstating."

"Crying wolf is especially dangerous in the area of nuclear proliferation," said Gore.

Bush answered Gore during a news conference Friday, saying the senator might not be concerned about it.

# Congress favourable to Bush initiative

WASHINGTON (AP) — A leaders of Congress have praised President George Bush's offer to negotiate with Iraq over its takeover of Kuwait by sending his top envoy to Baghdad.

On Friday, Bush offered to dispatch U.S. Secretary of State James Baker in a last-ditch diplomatic effort, but said he was ready to wage war "with enough power to get the job done" if the mission fails.

"There will not be any murky ending," Bush declared in a stern warning to Iraq.

Bush also said he has invited Iraqi Foreign Minister Tariq Aziz for a meeting at the White House in mid-December to discuss the Gulf crisis.

In announcing his diplomatic overture, Bush said the Baker trip and the White House meeting with Aziz were to present the U.S. case directly to Iraq and "demonstrate that we are prepared to go face-to-face and tell (Iraq) how committed we are to the United Nations resolutions."

"It's an opportunity to express face-to-face to Saddam Hussein the commitment of the American people" to Bush's policy to end the occupation of Kuwait, said Thomas S. Foley, speaker of the House of Representatives.

There was no immediate official comment from the Iraqi capital on Bush's offer. But Iraq's ambassador to France, Abdul Razzaq Al Hashimi, called Bush's announcement "a very important step toward peace."

He told British radio: "We hope it is going to achieve what we are all striving for, negotiations instead of beating the drums of war. And this is really, I consider it very good news."

In Washington, Senate Democratic leader George Mitchell cal-

led the Baker trip "a good idea" and said he felt that it was not necessary to convene Congress for a special session to consider any declaration of war against Iraq.

But Senate Republican Leader Bob Dole, while praising Bush's offer to send Baker to Iraq, accused Congress of wanting "to sit this one out" rather than meeting to adopt a resolution in support.

Congressman Mickey Edwards said Bush argued forcefully at the session against simply waiting for sanctions to work, noting that Kuwait, foreigners in Iraq and economies worldwide continue to suffer with each passing day.

Bush, announcing the decision in a statement from the White House briefing room at the opening of a news conference, said Baker's mission could be held at a "mutually convenient time" between Dec. 15 and Jan. 15.

"It isn't a trip of concession," Bush asserted, even though it reverses his previous opposition to sending emissaries to Iraq.

Bush hailed Thursday's United Nations Security Council vote authorising force and setting a deadline of Jan. 15 for Iraq's troops to leave Kuwait.

"I remain hopeful that we can achieve a peaceful solution to this crisis, but if force is required, we and the other 26 countries who have troops in the area will have enough power to get the job done," he said.

The president added that any such battle "will not be another Vietnam. This will not be a protracted, drawn-out war. I pledge to you there will not be any murky ending."

Bush said he would continue to consult with congressional leaders but had no plans to convene a special session of Congress.

# November records highest emigre rate to Israel

TEL AVIV (R) — A record 30,000 people immigrated to Israel in November, raising the total this year to 164,548, the quasi-governmental Jewish Agency said.

Some 28,000 of the monthly total were from the Soviet Union, making a total of 150,060 Soviet Jews so far this year.

Palestinians waging the 35-month-long uprising against Israeli rule in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip fear the tidal wave of Jewish immigrants will displace them.

Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir caused a storm of controversy this month when he said Israel should keep the occupied territories for the immigrants.

His rightwing government survived a parliamentary no-confidence vote on his statement Monday. Opposition parties said it put the Soviet exodus in jeopardy.

The United States has pledged guarantees on \$400 million worth of loans on condition the immigrants are not settled in the occupied territories. Israeli officials have said they will not be directed to the occupied territories.

The Jewish Agency said on Nov. 20 that 0.8 per cent of all new immigrants or 1,075 people had settled among some 90,000 Jews in the occupied territories, home to 1.75 million Palestinians.

The flood of immigrants is already taxing resources. Officials expect one million by the end of 1992, swelling Israel's 4.7 million population by a fifth.

Immigration activists fear disaster unless the government

treats their absorption as an emergency.

"There are people who first of all live five families in one apartment, and second have to decide each day whether to spend money on the bus and go five or six kilometres or not to buy fish and eat only potatoes," Natan Sharnansky told Israel television.

In October 20,324 Soviet immigrants arrived and in September 18,725.

Among November's immigrants were 428 Ethiopian Jews, Jewish Agency spokesman Yehuda Weinraub said.

Immigration from Ethiopia had virtually stopped since news of a secret airlift of Jews to Israel in 1985 was leaked. The agency now expects Ethiopia to permit its resumption.

Nearly 20,000 Ethiopians are now in Israel and the occupied territories. An equal number await permission to leave Ethiopia, Weinraub said.

# Rafsanjani favours temporary marriage

TEHRAN (R) — Single- or widowed Iranians have been told by the country's president they can satisfy their sexual needs by entering into short-term informal marriages.

But President Ali Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani, while declaring it was wrong to suppress human nature, warned husbands against taking advantage of sexual freedom to have extra-marital affairs.

"Let this way not be taken advantage of by married men to go after their whims and thus destroy family bonds," he said a Friday prayer sermon at Tehran University.

He said marriage contracts could be informally agreed by couples and might only last a month or two.

"If we don't break such cultural barriers then we cannot combat social vices," he said. "If someone has gone crazy due to sexual needs, judgement over this person is very difficult."

Rafsanjani said: "Our youth these days have to wait until they are 25 or 30, to have income and a residence, to satisfy their sexual needs. And we all know that kids after 15 have that need."

"There are hundreds of thousands, perhaps millions of widows, divorced women who are left single and because of social norms they remain like that."

Rafsanjani said: "Fighting human nature is incorrect. It will leave behind undesired effects."

### JORDAN TELEVISION

Tel: 773111-19

**PROGRAMME ONE**

15:30 ..... Teletext

15:30 ..... Koran

15:45 ..... Programme review

15:45 ..... Children programme

17:10 ..... Football

18:00 ..... News summary

18:10 ..... Local programme

19:50 ..... Programme review

20:00 ..... News in Arabic

20:30 ..... Arabiyyes

21:30 ..... Programme review

21:45 ..... Local programme

22:00 ..... News summary in Arabic

**PROGRAMME TWO**

17:30 ..... Le Cinq Dernieres Minutes

19:00 ..... News in French

19:15 ..... Classical music

19:30 ..... News in Hebrew

19:45 ..... Varieties programme

20:00 ..... News in Arabic

20:30 ..... Open House

21:10 ..... The Secrets of Oil

22:00 ..... News in English

22:30 ..... The Magazine

**PRAYER TIMES**

04:52 ..... Fajr

06:14 ..... Sunrise/Duha

11:25 ..... Dhukr

14:13 ..... 'Asr

16:36 ..... Maghreb

17:58 ..... Isha

### CHURCHES

St. Mary of Nazareth Church Swatish, Tel. 810740

Assemblies of God Church, Tel. 627285

St. Joseph Church Tel. 624590

Church of the Annunciation Tel. 674400

De la Salle Church Tel. 661757

Terrace Church Tel. 622366

Church of the Annunciation Tel. 625541

Anglican Church Tel. 625383, Tel. 628543

Armenian Catholic Church Tel. 771331

Armenian Orthodox Church Tel. 773341

St. Ephraim Church Tel. 771751

Assiuta International Church Tel. 653266

Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel. 811295

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints Tel. 815817 and 654932

**WEATHER**

Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.

It will be partly cloudy and winds will be southerly moderate. In Amman, winds will be northerly moderate and sea calm.

### JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

**AMMAN**

Min./max. temp. 7/25

Amman ..... 14/27

Aqaba ..... 6/24

Jericho ..... 16/28

Yesterday's high temperatures: Amman 25, Aqaba 29. Humidity readings: Amman 36 per cent, Aqaba 25 per cent.

**USEFUL NUMBERS**

**NIGHT DUTY**

**AMMAN:**

Dr. Mohammad Al Abdali ..... 779959

Dr. Khalid Eida ..... 671123

Dr. Ahmad Othman ..... 786384

Dr. Salim Al Daboubi ..... 776751

Firas pharmacy ..... 625236

Ferdous pharmacy ..... 676245

Al Azma pharmacy ..... 676245

Nairoba pharmacy ..... 626762

Al Salim pharmacy ..... 626730

Yacoub pharmacy ..... 644945

Stemessat pharmacy ..... 637460

**ERBID:**

Dr. Mustafa Al Jabour ..... (—)

Al Sheraa pharmacy ..... (985238)

**HAZRA:**

Dr. Tariq Hijawi ..... (—)

Khalid pharmacy ..... 983417

**EMERGENCIES**

Food Control Centre ..... 637111

Civil Defence Department ..... 661111

Civil Defence Immediate: Rescue ..... 630341

Civil Defence Emergency ..... 199

Rescue Police ..... 192, 621111, 637777

Fire Brigade ..... 891228

Blood Bank ..... 775121

Highway Police ..... 843402

Traffic Police ..... 896390

Public Security Department ..... 630321

Police Complaints ..... 608900

Price Complaints ..... 661176

Water and Sewerage Complaints ..... 897467

Amman Municipality ..... 787111

Telephone Information (directory assistance) ..... 121

Overseas Calls ..... 010230

Central Amman Telephone Repair ..... 623101

Abdali Telephone Repairs ..... 661101

Jordan Television ..... 773111

Radio Jordan ..... 774111

**HAZRA:**

Water Authority ..... 680100

Jordan Electricity Authority ..... 815615

Electric Power Company ..... 636381

RJ Flight Information ..... 06-53200

Queens Alia Intl. Airport ..... 06-53200

**HOSPITALS**

**AMMAN:**

Hussein Medical Centre ..... 813813/32

Khalid Maternity, J. Amn ..... 642616

Al-Khalid Maternity, J. Amn ..... 642412

Jabal Amman Maternity ..... 642642

Mabrouk, J. Amman ..... 636140

Palestine, Shmeisani ..... 664171/4

Shmeisani Hospital ..... 669131

University Hospital ..... 848848

Al-Yusuf Hospital ..... 667277/9

Al-Islamic, Abdali ..... 666127/37

Al-Anli, Abdali ..... 664164/6

Italian, Al-Muhajreen ..... 771101/3

Al-Badri, J. Ashrafieh ..... 775111/26

Amry, Marja ..... 891611/15

Queen Alia Hospital ..... 022405/0

Amal Hospital ..... 674155

**HAZRA:**

Zarga Govt. Hospital ..... (09)983323

University Hospital ..... (09)991071

Ben Sira Hospital ..... (09)985732

**ERBID:**

Princess Basma Hospital ..... (02)275555

**HAZRA:**

Greek Catholic Hospital ..... (02)722775

Don Al Nafees Hospital ..... (02)471100

AQABA:

Princess Haya Hospital ..... (03)314111

**FOR THE TRAVELLER**

**QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT**

This information is supplied by Royal Jordanian (RJ) information department at the Queen Alia International Airport, Tel. (02)330000, where it should always be verified.

**ARRIVALS**

**Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)**

09:45 ..... Doha (RJ)

10:00 ..... Jeddah (RJ)

10:30 ..... Tripoli (RJ)

10:45 ..... Abu Dhabi, Dubai (RJ)

10:55 ..... Bahrain (RJ)

11:00 ..... Cairo (RJ)

11:45 ..... Paris, Rome (RJ)

17:45 ..... Madrid (RJ)

18:00 ..... New York, Amsterdam (RJ)

18:15 ..... Istanbul (RJ)

18:45 ..... Brussels, Geneva (RJ)

**DEPARTURES**

**Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)**

12:00 ..... Cairo (RJ)

12:30 ..... Tunis, Casablanca (RJ)

12:45 ..... London (RJ)

13:00 ..... Istanbul (RJ)

17:15 ..... Amman (RJ)

20:30 ..... Damascus (RJ)

20:30 ..... Doha (RJ)

20:35 ..... Larissa (RJ)

21:00 ..... Riyadh (RJ)

21:20 ..... Cairo (RJ)

22:45 ..... Calcutta, Bangkok (RJ)

22:50 ..... Kuala Lumpur, Singapore (RJ)

23:30 ..... Jeddah, Sanaa (RJ)

**Other Flights (Terminal 2)**

11:00 ..... Jeddah (SV)

12:30 ..... Cairo (MS)

13:30 ..... Tripoli (LN)

14:30 ..... Dubai (EK)

19:25 ..... Frankfurt (LH)

20:35 ..... Beirut (ME)

**MARKET PRICES**

Upper/lower price in fils per kg.

Apple ..... 600 / 500

Banana ..... 500 / 400

Banana (Mukammal) ..... 450 / 400

Beans ..... 280 / 240

Cabbage ..... 120 / 80

Carrot ..... 240 / 180

Corn ..... 200 / 150

Cauliflower ..... 140 / 100

Cucumber ..... 150 / 80

Cucumbers (large) ..... 320 / 280

Cucumbers (small) ..... 300 / 400

Dates ..... 180 / 150

Eggplant ..... 300 / 200

Egg ..... 140 / 100

Figs ..... 180 / 100

Garlic ..... 600 / 500

Grapes ..... 170 / 120

Lemon ..... 180 / 120

Mallow ..... 100 / 50

Marrow (large) ..... 100 / 50

Marrow (small) ..... 220 / 180

Onion (dry) ..... 240 / 200

Onion (green) ..... 220 / 180

Okra ..... 600 / 500

Orange ..... 340 / 280

Potato (ho) ..... 220 / 180

Pepper (sweet) ..... 120 / 80

Potato ..... 300 / 250

Radish ..... 200 / 150

Sage ..... 650 / 500

Spinach ..... 150 / 100

Tomatoes ..... 170 / 120





Prince Ra'd Ben Zaid  
**Carl XVI  
honours  
Prince  
Ra'd**

STOCKHOLM (J.T.) — Their Highnesses Prince Ra'd Ben Zaid and Princess Majda Ra'd were honoured by Sweden's King Carl XVI Gustaf and Queen Silvia at a state banquet at the royal palace in Stockholm Thursday.

Prince Ra'd and Princess Majda were also received by Sten Andersson, Swedish minister for foreign affairs, and offered a luncheon at the ministry for foreign affairs.

During their visit to the Swedish capital, Their Highnesses were invited to stay at Drottningholm Palace, the residence of Their Majesties King Carl XVI Gustaf and Queen Silvia.

## UNESCO to hold talks on population education and development

AMMAN (J.T.) — The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO) is holding a regional consultative meeting on population education and development in the Arab states on Monday with the participation of specialists from various Arab countries.

A UNESCO statement said that the four-day meeting, to be held at the Amman Philadelphi Hotel, would review working papers dealing with population programmes in the Arab World based on statistics and data provided by 15 Arab countries, a summary of projects being implemented in the Arab region in cooperation with the United Nations Fund for Population Activities (UNFPA) and an assessment of issues common to the Arab World and related to population education and population communication.

The meeting, which will be opened by Minister of Education and Higher Education Mohammad Hamdan, is expected to be attended by 40 participants, all directors of population education departments or responsible officials in Arab ministries of education, university professors, deans of colleges and others concerned with population education in Syria, Tunisia, Morocco, Egypt, Yemen, Sudan, Lebanon, Bahrain and Jordan.

According to the UNESCO office here, the participants will discuss issues pertaining to population education in the Arab World, the concept of population education and its incorporation within the school curricula of the Arab World, challenges facing the population situation and solutions, proposals for promoting cooperation between Arab states, the UNFPA and UNESCO in dealing with such problems.

It said that the meeting would also prepare an Arab World declaration on population activities which would be submitted to an international conference on population education and development to be organised by UNESCO and UNFPA in Paris during 1992.

## Jordan urges implementation of U.N. resolutions on Palestine

NEW YORK (Petra) — Jordan has urged the United Nations to implement Security Council resolutions on Palestine, issued since the Arab-Israeli war of 1967, and said that implementation of these resolutions could be carried out through an international peace conference in which all concerned parties can take part.

"International legitimacy can not be selective and is by no means divisible, and the U.N. Security Council possesses the machinery for implementing its own resolutions so as to bring peace to the Middle East," urged Jordan's Ambassador to the United Nations Abdullah Salah.

"The Security Council has so far failed to implement its own resolutions due to Israel's rejection of these resolutions on the one hand and to the negative stand on the part of one of its five member nations on the other," Salah told the U.N. General Assembly meeting Friday evening.

He said that the most recent instance was represented by the Israeli massacre of 20 Arabs in Jerusalem which prompted the council to issue a resolution condemning the barbaric act and to decide to send an inquiry mission to investigate, but "the resolution was not implemented for the aforementioned reasons."

"The Palestine question is not a question of human rights and refugees alone, but rather it is a political issue of the first degree and its essential component is the national and legitimate rights of the Palestinian people, including their right to self-determination in an independent state in Palestine," Salah pointed out.

Israel, he said, has been denying the Palestinians their basic rights which were endorsed by the world community through the Security Council, and the Palestinians have risen in an uprising to try to gain their freedom and their basic rights.

"The uprising, which is now entering its fourth year, is not a mere expression of despair and frustration, but rather the birth of a state and a project for genuine peace," Salah said. He said that Israel had refused the Palestine Liberation Organisation's offers for peace declared by Palestine President Yasser Arafat in 1988, and had been defying the world community's will by refusing to give the Palestinians their basic rights.

Israel has exploited the cold war pursuing its colonial and expansionist projects in the occupied West Bank and has built settlements on Arab territory," Salah added. He said that Palestinians were now assuming the role of liberating their lands by themselves, through the intifada, which would continue until peace was achieved.

He also instructed the Ministry of Water and Irrigation to put an end to the pollution of the environment and underground water resources in the country.

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## 3 dams planned over next 3 years

AMMAN (J.T.) — In its drive to make water resources available for agricultural purposes the Ministry of Water and Irrigation plans to set up three new dams in the coming three years, starting next month, and will duly announce tenders for the projects, according to Minister of Water and Irrigation Daoud Khalaf.

In a statement to the Jordan News Agency, Petra, he said that one of the dams, to be called Wadi Rajel Dam at Azraq, will have a storage capacity of 2.5 million cubic metres of water.

The other, Wadi Swaga Dam near Karak, will have the storage capacity of 1.5 million cubic metres, and the third, Wadi Jordan Dam should store up to 500,000 cubic metres.

"The ministry started work on five dams in the past few years in order to collect flood water for farming and livestock in the semi arid regions of the country," Khalaf pointed out. He said that these are: Bweida Dam near Ramtha (700,000 cubic metres), Sama Al Sarhan Dam near Mafraq (1.7 million cubic metres),

Ghadeer Abiad Dam near Mafraq (700,000 cubic metres), Oat-raneh Dam near Karak (two million cubic metres), Sultani Dam near Karak (1.2 million cubic metres).

In cooperation with the Armed Forces, the ministry last year completed work on several earth dams which have a total storage capacity exceeding two million cubic metres of water.

Last month the minister said that feasibility studies on two dams, on the Waleh River and the Wadi Mujib River in southern

Jordan, were nearing completion. Those dams would cost JD 70 million are expected to store up to 55 million cubic metres of water annually.

Prime Minister Mudar Badran last May instructed Khalaf to build 10 earth dams in the Kingdom in the coming year which is to be named the year of water for Jordan.

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## German foundation hands project over to JCO

AMMAN (J.T.) — On November 25 Friedrich Naumann Foundation of Germany handed over the "Cooperative Development Support Communication Programme" to its partner, the Jordan Cooperative Organisation (JCO).

With this transfer of ownership, JCO has become the only cooperative organisation in the "developing world" owning a complete video production centre, equipped with both low and high-end recording and processing equipment as well as a distribution technology, comprising a mobile video-cinema, 15 viewing units and a carpark of three buses, furnished with all audio-visual teaching and training materials. This besides of a software stock of 61 produced videofilms and slideshows, all in the Arabic (with some in English) language and focusing on cooperative and agricultural information and education. Hard- and software together form an asset, valuing about \$1 million.

The cooperation between JCO and Friedrich Naumann Foundation started in 1983. The aim was to provide the Jordanian cooperative movement with the technical means and the professional knowledge to develop the extension services for its members. To this effect an intensive training programme was conducted to form a group of skilled extension officers, able to serve the large cooperative family in strengthening their knowledge and self-reliance.

To give some numbers: 58 video-films and three slideshows were produced; these films appeared 139 times in the agricultural programme of Jordan Television.

1,517 distribution sessions were conducted throughout Jordan, including the most remote areas of the country, and more than 100,000 cooperators attended these sessions and the following discussions, thus fostering dialogue and linking the members to the organisation.

Additionally, 15 viewing centres were established in the centres of cooperative activities in Jordan. The centres are furnished with video-viewing units, video libraries and sets of educational books on cooperative science and agriculture. Many thousands of cooperative members are using these facilities for their personal enlightenment.

As a result of these extension services, new cooperative societies were formed, including also six cooperative societies for women in the south of Jordan.

"It was and is the conviction of JCO and its Development Support Communication Programme that change and development start in the minds of people, and that in this process interesting institutional cooperation plays an important role," officials say. In compliance with this, some videofilms were created and produced together with experts of other developmental agencies, the Jordanian universities and the Ministry of Agriculture. All films were distributed free of charge to many Jordanian organisations as well as to other Arab cooperatives and educational institutions: in all more than 1,100 copies of the films are now being used for the educational and informational build-up of thousands of individuals in the Arab World.

All the assets of the Cooperative Development Support Communication Programme are now under the command of JCO's headquarters in Amman, where a new video-audio and control-room were installed and are being operated by JCO-personnel. "This will guarantee that the programme's activities shall continue for many years to come," the officials add.

To secure the future of the programme, Friedrich Naumann Foundation is providing a further three-year financial assistance to JCO, covering parts of the expenses for production, extension-services and training.

Accordingly, with the handover of all hard and software to JCO ownership, the cooperation between JCO and Friedrich Naumann Foundation does not end. "It is just that JCO can now handle the programme on its own, and no foreign expertise is any more needed," foundation officials say.

Linking the Palestinian issue with the Gulf crisis will help

establish the right basis for real peace in the region, he said. The stage in the region is set for real peace in spite of all the current crises, he said, hoping that co-existence and understanding replace destruction.

The delegation was also received by Lower House of Parliament Speaker Abdul Latif Arabiyat.

Arabiyat affirmed to the delegation the cohesiveness among Jordan's leadership, its government and people. He said Jordan was looking forward to achieving justice and human rights for all peoples of the world.

Earlier in the day the Jordanian-Jordanian joint economic committee wound up a week-long session of talks and signed minutes of their deliberations giving details about agreements for expanding bilateral

cooperation in trade and economic fields.

A statement at the conclusion of the talks said that Romania will import 65,000 tonnes of Jordanian phosphate from now until the end of 1990 in implementation of a deal signed in October 1990 between the Jordan Phosphate Mines Company (JPMC) and the Romanian importing company.

According to that deal, Romania will import 200,000 tonnes of phosphate from now until the end of February 1991 and 400,000 tonnes during 1991.

The two sides agreed to create trade centres in Bucharest and Amman to sell national products directly to the public, according to the statement issued at the Ministry of Planning.

In order to organise the exchange of trade and to increase the volume of exchanged goods, the two sides agreed to renew a 1982 special agreement for the settlement of payments through the Central Bank of Jordan (CBJ) and the Romanian foreign trade bank. The 1982 agreement in this regard will now be renewed for two more years, and will later be renewed automatically unless either party desired otherwise, the statement noted.

Referring to the economic and technical cooperation, specially in the exploration for oil, energy and in the field of electricity, the two sides voiced satisfaction with the performance of the Romanian companies which in the past carried out projects in these fields in Jordan; and Jordan welcomed Romanian firms' participation in future government tenders to implement energy and oil projects in the Kingdom.

It said that a group of experts and consultants representing various Sectors were being involved in the analytical and statistical processes conducted by the centre which is operated by Samir Hiyari, a journalist who is employed by Al Rai and the Jordan Times.

The centre, the first of its kind in the country, conducts analysis of events and developments related to the Gulf issue trying to sound out Jordanian people's views on the situation and questions related to peace or war in the region, visits to the region, like that carried out recently by President Bush, consequences on the region in case of a war with Iraq, and other related topics.

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## Prince Hassan receives delegation

AMMAN (J.T.) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan met at the royal court Saturday with the Romanian side to the Jordanian-Romanian joint economic committee led by Dumitru Popescu and called for further development of Jordanian-Romanian cooperation in political and economic fields.

The Crown Prince briefed the Romanian delegation on Jordan's position vis-a-vis the Gulf crisis and its ongoing efforts to solve the issue by peaceful means and in accordance with the international legitimacy.

Developments in the Gulf, the Prince said, led to a sharp rise in oil prices that brought about disastrous consequences to poor nations and made the rich richer.

Referring to U.S. President George Bush's initiative for a dialogue with Iraq, the Crown Prince said that Jordan welcomes this development as a good chance for the attainment of peace.

U.N. Security Council Resolution 660 does not demand only that Iraq withdraw from Kuwait but also called for immediate negotiations between Kuwait and Iraq, the Crown Prince noted.

He said that the United Nations has not yet implemented Security Council resolutions concerning other issues, and it is hoped that all the region's issues will be settled one after the other.

Popescu conveyed to the Prince Romania's appreciation of Jordan's recognition of the new Romanian government and said that his country supports Jordan's views for finding a peaceful settlement for issues of the Middle East whose security is linked with that of Europe.

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His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan Saturday receives Romanian and Jordanian delegation to trade talks (Petra photo)

## Romania to import 65,000 tonnes of phosphate by year's end

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# Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published in English by the Jordan Press Foundation. Established 1975.

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Chairman of the Board of Directors:

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Director General:

MORAMMAD AMAD

Editor-in-Chief:

GEORGE S. HAWATMEH

Editorial and advertising offices:

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University Road, P.O. Box 6710, Amman, Jordan.

Telephones: 667171/6, 670141-4

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## 'Talks' will hopefully lead to 'negotiations'

IN THE wake of U.S. President George Bush's offer to engage Iraq in "talks," the eyes of the world are busy dissecting the scope and dimensions of such dialogue. To begin with there is indeed a very thin line between "talks" and "negotiations," with the latter signifying more give and take than the former. During the last four months Bush was saying that there was nothing to talk about. Friday's reversal of stance suggests something fundamental has changed. The remarks of U.S. Secretary of State James Baker shed more light on the nature of the projected dialogue between Washington and Baghdad. In highlighting his government's preparedness "to discuss all aspects of the Gulf crisis," Baker seems to keep the door wide open for broad negotiations between the two sides rather than just formal talks on ways and means to implement the 12 U.N. Security Council resolutions on the Kuwaiti crisis. Even when Bush and Baker coupled their bold decision to talk with Iraq with a firm and grim reminder that the U.S. would not waver in its demand for total Iraqi withdrawal from Kuwait, restoration of the Kuwaiti government and release of all foreign nationals held in Kuwait and Iraq. The absence of the hitherto firm request that any such envisaged Iraqi withdrawal must be unconditional would suggest that there is indeed a dramatic and profound transformation in the U.S. position. The much hailed U.S. peace overture, therefore, calls for negotiations on the terms and conditions of any Iraqi withdrawal from Kuwait. There is suspicion that the peace offer by Bush was the price that Washington may have had to pay to get the consent of the Security Council members to tow its line on resolution 678. The resolution ostensibly authorised the resort to force against Iraq. More relevant than this is the American public opinion and the anti-war position by many eminent members of the U.S. Congress. The leaders of the Congress have put their Chief Executive on notice that they will not tolerate a personal decision to go to war without the advice and consent of Congress.

Yesterday it was Iraq's turn to reciprocate this peace overture. Baghdad's decision to respond in kind to this U.S. offer of dialogue thus offers an opening that needs to be delicately nurtured and developed lest it abort prematurely. But from now on words and actions need to be carefully chosen to avoid a miscarriage of the peace option. The world has gone out of its way to get to this point and it must not be allowed to slip away. For over a decade, Washington and Baghdad were on the best of terms and there is no reason whatsoever why the two countries cannot once again work on the same wavelength. Iraq paid dearly in order to check the encroachment of the Khomenei threat against the entire Gulf region. The geopolitical role of Iraq today remains the same as yesterday. There is no other power in the region that can still thwart any foreign threat against the smaller Arab Gulf states. It would be utterly foolish to imagine that foreign designs on the Gulf have fundamentally changed. There is a great deal, therefore, that unites Iraq with the U.S. on the need to maintain security and stability in the area. This overriding convergence of strategic interests should enable the two sides to find common language once again on the future of the Gulf region.

## ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

Jordanian newspapers Saturday gave guarded welcome to the apparent change in American policy with regard to Iraq, and President Bush's decision to open a dialogue with Baghdad before any withdrawal of Iraqi forces from Kuwait. Al Rai'i daily said the Arabs hope that the meetings between the two leaderships, as suggested by Bush, would not be restricted to giving the Iraqis an ultimatum or a new threat. The Bush statement could usher in a real development in the U.S. administration's stand vis-a-vis the Gulf issue, and it is hoped that this development would have a strategic dimension, and not serve as a mere tactic for the time being, added the paper. For its part, Iraq had been extending a hand to Washington even when the Bush administration was escalating the tension and beating the drums of war loudly to intimidate Iraq; and the Iraqi leaders did not abandon the quest for peace although they had been announcing their determination to fight and defend the Iraqi soil should an aggression be launched on the Iraqi people, the paper noted. All along the Iraqis did not show any adamant position except with regard to their rights, and they had been declaring that they want a peaceful settlement to the Gulf issue along with other outstanding problems, the daily said.

Al Dastour daily welcomed Bush's announcement, but said that any dialogue under the umbrella of Security Council Resolution 678 is not feasible and should take the form of direct negotiations between Baghdad and Washington. The paper said if America wants to solve the issue by peaceful means, it ought to offer concessions, and not to repeat threats which were not accepted by Iraq. The paper noted that unconditional Iraqi withdrawal from Kuwait would mean American forces moving in, to occupy that country and replace the Iraqis in a position where they can threaten Iraq. Therefore, it asked which forces should replace the Iraqis in Kuwait, and would the Arab-Israeli conflict remain shelved after Iraq has given up Kuwait? This question must be asked now before any further steps, because of the Arab Nation's bitter experience with Washington which had been supporting the Israeli occupation and aggression, the paper pointed out. We realise that Bush's aim is not only to liberate Kuwait, but also to strip the Iraqis from their power and arms; offering a great favour and service for the Israelis, enabling them to maintain their occupation of Arab lands in Palestine, the paper continued. It said that Bush's statement is shrouded with suspicion since, he said, that the invitation to Aziz and the coming meetings constitute another step in the efforts for peace.

## Did Bush blink first?

By Deborah Zabarenko  
Reuters

WASHINGTON — From early in the Gulf crisis, the question has been: "who will blink first, Bush or Saddam?"

Latest U.S. diplomatic moves have convinced some analysts that George Bush's eyelids are starting to flutter.

On Friday, after the U.N. Security Council endorsed "last resort" military action to force Iraq to leave Kuwait, the U.S. president offered to send Secretary of State James Baker to Baghdad and to receive Iraqi Foreign Minister Tariq Aziz at the White House.

Iraq on Saturday accepted "the idea of the invitation and the meeting."

Bush denied that his gesture had made him look weak in the eyes of the world and those of Iraqi President Saddam Hussein.

"That's not what this is about," he told a news conference on Friday.

"This is to be sure that he

(Saddam) understands how strongly the president of the United States feels about implementing a 'T', without concession, the United Nations' positions."

But some analysts see signs of concession in Bush's new willingness to talk to Baghdad without prior withdrawal of Iraqi troops from Kuwait.

"It does send a signal to the world and to our allies, and the signal is: The bargaining has begun," Michael Mandelbaum, a foreign policy expert at the Johns Hopkins school for advanced international studies, told Reuters. "It's not a blink, but it is a flutter."

There seemed to be plenty of what Mandelbaum and others call horse-trading on the way to the Security Council vote, which followed gruelling diplomatic tours by Baker and Bush.

"The Bush-Baker team is developing a reputation for precisely this mode of operation," said Andrew Goldberg,

a policy analyst at the Centre for Strategic and International Studies.

"It generally starts out with a very tough rhetorical line, then follows a lot of internal political bickering in which the president finds himself bleeding from a thousand cuts and he gives away at the tactical level things he would never give on the strategic level," Goldberg said in an interview.

He thought a compromise with Iraq was probably in the offing, but added that any appearance of American weakness would make it more likely that Arab nations would defect from the multi-national coalition against Iraq.

As part of the horse-trading leading up to the U.N. vote, Bush received Chinese Foreign Minister Qian Qichen at the White House, resuming the kind of high-level talks that were banned after the 1989 Tiananmen Square massacre. China subsequently refrained from vetoing the U.N.

"force" resolution.

Winston Lord, former U.S. ambassador to China, worried that the meeting would be used in the government-controlled Chinese press "to tell the Chinese people that in effect, Tiananmen Square is being forgotten and it's more or less business as usual."

But he noted that tradeoffs were generally necessary when trying to marshal an international coalition, as the Bush administration has done.

Mandelbaum agreed that tradeoffs, however unpalatable, are a basic component of modern diplomacy.

But he saw something peculiar in Bush's assertion that Baker was being sent to Baghdad to convince Saddam of the seriousness of U.S. intentions in the Gulf.

"If 400,000 troops in Saudi Arabia didn't do it," Mandelbaum said, "I don't know whether the idea of James Baker showing up at the airport in Baghdad is going to do it."

## Iraqi response to Bush initiative

BAGHDAD (R) — Following are excerpts from a statement issued Saturday by Iraq's Revolutionary Command Council accepting U.S. President George Bush's offer for Gulf crisis talks.

The translation by Reuters and is based on an Arabic text issued by the Iraqi News Agency.

"We have been informed of the statements made by Bush yesterday as reported by news agencies and in which he proposed inviting the Iraqi Foreign Minister, (Tariq Aziz), to Washington to meet him and proposes sending his foreign minister (Secretary of State James Baker) to Baghdad to meet with the president, leader Saddam Hussein."

"The enemy of God, the arrogant president of the United States George Bush had consistently opposed dialogue, expressing his hatred of Arabs

and Muslims and all those who believe in Allah and the world's human values."

"In line with our principles and the morals and principles Allah has asked us to be committed to, we accept the idea of the invitation and the meeting."

When we officially receive the invitation, those concerned in Iraq and their counterparts in the United States will agree on the dates of the exchanged visits and the practical arrangements which suit both sides."

"(The decision to accept was made) despite the fact that the Bush invitation for meetings came after he amassed all that he amassed from brutal might on the holy lands of Arabs and Muslims, despite the unjust resolutions he issued through what was called Security Council resolutions against the people of Iraq, despite the arrogant tone which he used in his invitation and that the invita-

tion came in a peculiar way away from the norms followed by those who desire a serious dialogue and not an act of showmanship designed to justify what he had already decided on — launching aggression against Iraq."

"In view of the fact that the invitation for meetings included an unclear idea whose motives are unclear too — that is to say the American president's invitation to a number of ambassadors to attend the meeting between him and the Iraqi foreign minister — we shall ask the American side for clarifications and reasons."

"If the American side sees it as necessary, Iraq will invite on its part the presence of representatives from nations and parties linked to the outstanding issues in the Arab region to attend the meetings with the American administration whether in Washington or

Baghdad after consulting the concerned parties and on the basis of reciprocity."

"In any case, our endeavour will be, as it has always been, to conduct a profoundly serious dialogue and not pro forma meetings as the American president wants it to use as a pretext before the American and world public opinions and the international community to achieve the objectives which he has planned in the first place."

"Iraq will endeavour to follow up and broaden any window for dialogue rather than the language of threats."

"The principles included in the initiative of the president, leader Saddam Hussein on Aug. 12, 1990 will be our guide in every serious dialogue... Palestine and other occupied Arab territories will be at the forefront of the issues dealt with in any dialogue."

## Bush doubts sanctions alone will force Iraqi pullout

# Going the 'extra mile' for peace

WASHINGTON — Although President Bush believes the United Nations sanctions imposed on Iraq following its invasion of Kuwait "clearly... are having some effect," he expressed doubt Nov. 30 that those measures alone will compel Iraq to withdraw from Kuwait and restore its legitimate government.

"I can't tell you that the sanctions alone will get the job done," he said at a White House news conference, "and thus, I welcome yesterday's United Nations action" authorising the use of all necessary means to liberate Kuwait from Iraqi occupation if the troops are not withdrawn by Jan. 15.

Bush pointed out that the new democracies of Eastern Europe and the developing countries in Africa and the Western hemisphere "are being severely damaged by the economic effects" of Iraqi President Saddam Hussein's aggression.

The president said those who feel that there is no penalty for "waiting months and months" for the sanctions to force Iraqi compliance with the U.N. resolutions "must consider the devastating damage being done every day to the fragile economies of those countries that can afford it the least."

Following is the transcript of the president's statement and the news conference which followed:

Bush: I have a statement, an opening statement, that is a little longer than normal and I'd ask your indulgence, and then I will be glad to respond to questions.

We're in the Gulf because the world must not and cannot reward aggression. And we're there because our vital interests are at stake. And we're in the Gulf because of the brutality of Saddam Hussein. We're dealing with a dangerous dictator all too willing to use force, who has weapons of mass destruction and is seeking new ones, and who desires to control one of the world's key resources — all at a time in history when the rules of the post-cold war world are being written.

Our objectives remain what they were since the outset. We seek Iraq's immediate and unconditional withdrawal from Kuwait. We seek the restoration of Kuwait's legitimate government. We seek the release of all hostages and the free functioning of all embassies. And we seek the stability and security of this critical

'I want peace. I want peace, not war, but if there must be war, we will not permit our troops to have their hands tied behind their backs, and I pledge to you there will not be any murky ending. If one American soldier has to go into battle, that soldier will have enough force behind him to win and then get out as soon as possible, as soon as the U.N. objectives have been achieved. I will never, ever agree to a halfway effort.'

al region of the world.

We are not alone in these goals and objectives. The United Nations, invigorated with a new sense of purpose, is in full agreement. The U.N. Security Council has endorsed 12 resolutions to condemn Iraq's unprovoked invasion and occupation of Kuwait, implement tough economic sanctions to stop all trade in and out of Iraq, and authorise the use of force to compel Saddam to comply.

Saddam Hussein has tried every way he knows how to make this a fight between Iraq and the United States, and clearly, he has failed. Forces of 26 other nations are standing shoulder-to-shoulder with our troops in the Gulf. The fact is that it is not the United States against Iraq, it is Iraq against the world, and there's never been a clearer demonstration of a world united against appeasement and aggression.

Yesterday's U.N. Security Council resolution was historic. Once again, the Security Council has enhanced the legitimate peacekeeping function of the United Nations. Until yesterday, Saddam may not have understood what he's up against in terms of world opinion, and I am hopeful that now he will realise that he must leave Kuwait immediately.

I'm continually asked how effective are the U.N. sanctions — those put into effect on Aug. 6 — and I don't know the answer to that question. Clearly, the sanctions are having some effect but I can't tell you that the sanctions alone will get the job done. And thus I welcome yesterday's U.N. action.

The fledgling democracies in Eastern Europe are being severely damaged by the economic effects of Saddam's actions. The developing countries of Africa and in our hemisphere are being victimized by this dictator's rape

of his neighbour, Kuwait. Those who feel that there is no down side to waiting months and months must consider the devastating damage being done every day to the fragile economies of those countries that can afford it the least.

And, as Chairman Alan Greenspan testified just the other day, the increase in oil prices resulting directly from Iraq's invasion is hurting our country, too. And our economy, as I said the other day, is at best in a serious slowdown. And if uncertainty remains in the energy markets, the slowdown will get worse.

I've spelled out once again our reasons for sending troops to the Gulf. Let me tell you the things that concern me most.

First, I put the immorality of the invasion of Kuwait itself. No nation should rape, pillage and brutalise its neighbour. No nation should be able to wipe a member state of the United Nations and the Arab League off the face of the earth. And I'm deeply concerned about all the hostages, innocent people held against their will in direct contravention of international law. And then there's this cynical and brutal policy, forcing people to beg for their release, parcelling out human lives to families and travelling emissaries like so much chattel.

I'm deeply concerned about our own embassy in Kuwait. The flag is still flying there; a handful of beleaguered Americans remain inside the embassy, unable to come and go. This treatment of our embassy violates every civilised principle of diplomacy. And it demeans our people, it demeans our country. And I am determined that this embassy, as called for under Security Council Resolution 674, be fully replenished and our people free to come home.

Let me repeat. We have no argument with the people of Iraq. Indeed, we have only friendship for the people there. And, further, I repeat that we have no desire to keep one single Amer-

ican soldier in the Gulf a single day longer than is necessary to achieve the objectives set out above.

No one wants to see a peaceful solution to this crisis more than I do, and, at the same time, no one is more determined than I am to see Saddam's aggression reversed.

And lastly, people now caution patience. The United States and the entire world have been patient. I will continue to be patient, but yesterday's U.N. resolution, the 13th by the Security Council, properly says to Saddam Hussein, "time is running out. You must leave Kuwait, and you've given your time to do just exactly that."

Many people have talked directly to Saddam Hussein and to his foreign minister, Tariq Aziz. All have been frustrated by Iraq's ironclad insistence that it will not leave Kuwait.

However, to go the extra mile for peace, I will issue an invitation to Foreign Minister Tariq Aziz to come to Washington at a

mutually convenient time during the latter part of the week of Dec. 10 to meet with me. And I'll invite ambassadors of several of our coalition partners in the Gulf to join me at that meeting.

In addition, I am asking Secretary James Baker to go to Baghdad to see Saddam Hussein, and I will suggest to Iraq's president that he receive the secretary of state at a mutually convenient time between December 15, and Jan. 15 of next year.

Within the mandate — within the mandate of the U.N. resolutions, I will be prepared, and so will Secretary Baker, to discuss all aspects of the Gulf crisis. However, to be very clear about these efforts to exhaust all means for achieving a political and diplomatic solution, I am not suggesting that discussions that will result in anything less than Iraq's complete withdrawal from Kuwait, restoration of Kuwait's legitimate government, and freedom for all hostages.

(Continued on page 5)

## Bush offer draws support

(Continued from page 1)

the Foreign Office statement said. A Foreign Office spokesman said Britain had been notified in advance of Bush's statement.

Italian Foreign Minister Gianni De Michelis said Bush's initiative "seems to me a good thing."

"The fact that the United States, the most important country in the West, makes a step of this type can only be seen with favour by a country like Italy which in the next six weeks (through the end of the European Community presidency) will leave nothing unturned in exploring all means that can lead to a peaceful solution to the crisis," De Michelis said.

De Michelis, speaking to reporters in Venice, said he had not been informed in advance of Bush's decision.

Spanish Foreign Office spokesman Juan Lena called Bush's offer positive. The Spanish government supported all initiatives that could lead to a peaceful solution, Lena said in Madrid.

Israel kept silent about the U.S. offer, but analysts viewed the surprise move as the first step in an American "sellout" of Iraq to win concessions from Iraq.

"The fear is that somehow the United States will pay with Israeli currency for its failures in the Gulf," said Eytan Glibson, a Middle East expert at the Hebrew University.

Defence Minister Moshe Arens said the U.S. offer was no reason for Israel to lower its military preparedness.

"We have been on increased alert and readiness since the Gulf crisis erupted four months ago," Arens said on Israel Radio. He said radar and anti-aircraft installations were fully staffed and the air force had changed its training programme.

Newspapers in the oil-rich Arab states in the Gulf, all bitter anti-Iraq, stressed that Thursday's United Nations Security Council resolution authorising the U.S.-led multinational force in the region to take military action if Iraq does not withdraw from Kuwait by Jan. 15 undermined the need for a dialogue to prevent a confrontation.

Sharjah's Al Khaleej daily said: "The countdown has begun. Diplomatic patience is shrinking, and Iraq has to understand that during the coming 45 days the war decision will be taken if Baghdad refuses to yield to international legitimacy."

In Iran, the government-controlled English-language Kayhan International newspaper said the significance of the U.N. resolution "is that it is a last chance for Saddam Hussein to comply with the wishes of the world community. It gives him a chance to think very seriously about things."

But the paper complained that the Security Council "in this, as in past decades, often appears to act as an auxiliary White House agency."

It questioned whether the Soviet Union, which is one of the council's five permanent members, "is really in a position to cast a responsible, impartial vote now that it has been reduced from a monolithic superpower to an international beggar."

## Sunday's Economic Pulse

# Budget speech today

By Dr. Fahed Fanek

Mr. Bassel Jaraneh, minister of finance, is scheduled to present the draft of the awaited budget for 1991 to Parliament today. It is customary in Jordan that the speech by the minister of finance in this annual occasion deals not only with the main features of the budget as such, but also with the actual performance of the Jordanian economy in the past year, and the analysis and projections of the national economy's problems and objectives in the coming year.

No doubt, the Gulf crisis and its negative impact on the Jordanian economy will be the central point in the expose. The speech is definitely expected to reflect on the financial performance during the first half of 1990, i.e., before the crisis, and will highlight the economic objectives and policies for 1991.

Before the Gulf crisis erupted in August 1990, we used to discuss the growth, progress, and success of the economy. Nowadays, the focal point is how to contain the difficulties, and minimise the losses, so that the damage will not develop into a death blow, or become a signal of fatal retreat as desired and hoped by the enemies of the country.

There was a lot of successes and achievements prior to the crisis, which the minister can demonstrate, but there is a lot more of challenges and difficulties facing the economy after the crisis, which the minister can elaborate upon and put them in the right framework. He is expected to present and analyse the policies and measures taken by the government to withstand the crisis and reduce the damages.

The speech by the minister may not overlook the economic adjustment programme which was put into effect as of April 1989. It is evident now that the adjustment programme needs to be adjusted to take into account the new set of circumstances. The government is required to come up with a new programme as the current crisis justifies revision of the plan but not the abandonment of the adjustment effort.

The minister of finance was of course one of the most eloquent speakers for Jordan in the international arena abroad, especially in making Jordan's case for damages and the right for compensation. It is now high time for him to have a word at home, addressed to Parliament and the people to place the damages in their real perspective without exaggeration or understatement. It should be made abundantly clear that Jordan lost, but it is definitely able to survive and overcome the difficulties, and push ahead, seeking alternatives and new opportunities to minimise the losses.

Many deputies and commentators will reflect on the speech of the minister of finance presenting the new budget. But it should be pointed out that the speech is only an introduction to and elaboration on the budget. The speech comprises the views and convictions of the minister, which many may share and others may contradict. The real evaluation of the budget should depend basically on its numbers, and on whether or not the revenue and expenditures are realistic and form the right response to the circumstances and realities that it is meant to address. Composition and prose are important but the figures are crucial.

What needs the approval of the Lower and Upper Houses of the Parliament is of course the budget, not the speech. However, our previous experience with the minister of finance justifies our expectation of a distinguished speech, that will, hopefully, resolve many positions and policies that are either not clarified or not formulated yet to deal with the current financial and economic difficulties.



# 'Has the U.S.-led coalition blinked?'

(Continued from page 4)

Question: Now that you have a clearcut U.N. resolution on use of force, doesn't that force you into a position — if these talks between the secretary of state break down — doesn't this force you into the position of having to use force on Jan. 15 if Saddam Hussein hasn't left? And if not, won't we be seen as the one that blinked first?

Answer: No, the date was not a date at which point force had to be used.

Q: If I could just follow up with another question. Are you going to ask Congress for approval of this — this resolution? Would you like to see Congress pass the same kind of resolution as the United Nations?

A: I'd love to see Congress pass a resolution enthusiastically endorsing what the United Nations has done, yes. But we're in consultation on that, and I have no plan to call a special session.

Q: You say you're confident that American troops will prevail against Saddam if called upon.

A: Oh, absolutely.

Q: But at what price? How many Americans?

A: Well, I can't give you that, any figures, of course. But I can say that the movement of this additional force safeguards the lives of every American and everyone of our allies in the Gulf.

Q: In recent days, senior members of the administration have emphatically rejected the idea of any special emissaries or diplomatic envoys to or from Iraq to discuss this on your part. What changed your mind, sir?

A: The U.N. resolution, I think, has a good chance of making Saddam Hussein understand what it is he's up against. I have not felt that he got the message. I hope this will do it. But I am convinced that these two direct meetings that I've discussed here will guarantee to all the people of the world, certainly to the American people, that Saddam Hussein is not misunderstanding, not misinterpreting, I keep hearing "well, people won't give him the news." Unlike the president of the United States, who gets good news and bad news very faithfully, I am told that Saddam Hussein's troops don't bring him the bad news. And I'm told that he is somewhat isolated. And I think this U.N. resolution will help in a sense to de-isolate him. And I think the two proposals that I've made here will help. And so, it's just going the extra step, that's what it is. And it's a decision that I personally made.

Q: You indicate that this date is not actually a deadline for the use of force, merely a date after which force would be permissible. How do you avoid the impression, should that date come and go without military action, that the U.S.-led coalition has, in fact, blinked?

A: Well, we've got to look at events at the time. But I don't think there will ever be a perception that the United States is going to blink in this situation. That's why I had some of the words in this statement that I had.

Q: You've just spoken about the weapons of mass destruction

and nuclear weapons, and also that one of your goals is to try to reach stability in the region. Can you reach stability in the region with Saddam Hussein in power?

A: I think most countries — members of the United Nations — feel that there have to be some safeguards put into effect in terms of guaranteeing the security and stability of the Gulf. And so, I would think that the status quo ante will not be enough, and I think there will be — there are sanctions in place now, and I think it would be very proper to discuss what those safeguards should be after there has been a — total compliance with the United Nations resolutions.

Q: I just noticed that when you were originally — when you outlined your goals you included stability in the region you seemed to summarize them when you talk about these talks with Saddam Hussein, but you didn't — you only mentioned the first three; you didn't mention stability in the region.

A: Well, I was talking about the U.N. resolutions — which security and stability I don't think was a part of the U.N. resolution. It is certainly part of the world's objective, however, I think that may be the technical difference.

Q: Do you take it from that to communicate that you've received there that the Iraqis have the message and want to eliminate that as a potential tripping?

A: I don't know. It's too — it's the best question, right on target, one that we were discussing inside. And I — let's try to be optimistic and say this — this could be a positive sign. But it's so far short of compliance with international law that I can't be rejoicing. But it is a very interesting development.

Q: Let me ask you something else. Al Gore yesterday takes issue with your comments and the comments of some of your aides, such as Brent Scowcroft, about Saddam being able to churn out a nuclear weapon within a matter of months. Gore, who's had some private briefings apparently from some of these people, indicates that your administration's statements are misleading.

A: I disagree with the senator, and if he wants to gamble on the future about the construction of atomic weapons by Saddam Hussein, I don't. And I know what the intelligence says, every bit of it. And I can't share it, obviously, because we don't comment on intelligence matters. But I am concerned, and the very first time I spoke on this subject, I think in August, I mentioned weapons of mass destruction, I believe, but certainly early on. And I am concerned about it. And if Senator Gore has a difference of opinion and is not concerned about it, we just have an honest difference there.

Q: I am concerned about Saddam Hussein's attempt to accelerate the possession of a — construction or possession of a nuclear weapon, and I might as well share that as honestly as I can.

Q: Are you saying you think he could develop a warhead next year?

A: I'm not giving you a time frame, but there — you've seen the estimates, some of which, I guess, are accurate, in the papers. And there's a lot of scientists that come down on different sides. And Senator Gore, I'm sure, is

an intelligent fellow, and he — but I don't think he has access to absolutely all — maybe he does — but I am not going to err on the side of underestimation when it comes to this question.

Q: Your announcement about Tareq Aziz and Secretary Baker — have you had any signals, any indications from the Iraqis, that they would welcome this, that they are indeed looking for this kind of communication?

A: No. The only thing I've heard is that they want to talk. There's an opportunity, but no, I have not had any — even diplomatic signals or signals of other kinds.

Q: And of those 26 nations that you list in the area, how many of those are equally committed to offensive action, rather than just defensive action?

A: I can't give you the answer to that because I don't really know. But I expect that there is enthusiasm in all quarters of those countries for the U.N. action that was taken yesterday.

Q: With all respect, shouldn't you know how many would follow your troops into battle?

A: I know that what I said is true about the — if we have to go into battle, and I am satisfied I know enough about that. I went over in detail, as one will imagine a president should because I have the responsibility as Commander-in-Chief, what might happen if we have to use force. I repeat, I hope we'll never have to have one single shot fired in anger.

Q: Iraq has been constantly calling for dialogue. Aren't you concerned that those two missions, Tareq Aziz and James Baker, will lead Saddam Hussein to claim that the United States is showing a sign of weakness?

A: That's what?

Q: That the United States is weakening?

A: Because Baker goes to Baghdad?

Q: Aren't you concerned that that would be the position of Saddam Hussein?

A: No, I'm not. I'm concerned some might say this is an ultimatum in which it is an effort to be sure that he understands the commitment of the United States, that he understands that anything that is done must be done inside the confines of the U.N. resolutions that have been passed, that there will be no face saving. That's not what this is about. This is to be sure that he understands how strongly the president of the United States feels about implementing to a tee, without concessions — the U.N. position.

Q: And some have told me that he's not getting the message of how determined we are. And I can't think of any better way to do it at this juncture, in the wake of the U.N. resolution, than this face-to-face meeting. I'm not sure he'll agree to it.

Q: Arab experts suggest that Saddam Hussein has hinted in his remarks that he would like to have some sort of deal, but he wouldn't necessarily hold to his demands. Now you're saying you're willing to meet with him. Are you willing to offer him anything in these meetings in return for a pullout, such as a conference on the Middle East?

A: No. Those two items are totally separate. We've made that very, very clear. And what I have said is that this will be — this — these discussions will be done within the U.N. mandate. I'm not

all that hopeful that what — that we'll get big results out of all of this. It's going the extra mile; it's taking the extra step. But I can't tell you that I think we're going to have great success on all of this because our partnership in the world is together on the fact that we cannot stop short of total fulfillment without condition of the U.N. resolutions.

Q: Well, what then is the point of the meeting? Are you just delivering ultimatums?

Q: No, this isn't an ultimatum, at all. And I hope what it does is demonstrate that we are prepared to go face to face and tell him how committed we are to the U.N. resolutions. I've told you, I don't think he has felt this commitment. As I said earlier, he may feel it a little more strongly now that we did what many sceptics thought couldn't happen — that the U.N. Security Council did — and that is come together and pass this very important resolution.

Q: So one thing is, we got to — he's got to understand what the alternatives are to complying with the U.N. resolution. And the best way to get that across is one on one — Baker looking him right in the eye. I've been told that he doesn't necessarily believe that I am totally committed to what I've been saying, and here's a good opportunity to have him understand that, face to face.

Q: So we want to make the case to him, directly, for complying with the U.N. resolutions; make the case to him, from a secretary of state who's incessantly worked to get this resolution through, of the strength of the commitment of the international community. And then try to persuade him that — to reconsider his position and to take the steps necessary for a peaceful resolution of the crisis.

Q: But it isn't, you know, a trip of concession. When you've done what he's done, I don't — I don't see that there's — there's room for concession, there's room for giving something to save face. That's not the way you treat with aggression and we're not going to treat it any differently than I've outlined here.

Q: You mentioned the damage that high oil prices are doing to the world economy. Should Saudi Arabia and other producers share more of their windfall?

A: I think they're doing a pretty good job in underwriting the costs to various countries and helping third — third party countries that have been hurt by all of this. But I think everybody should go the extra mile to help others.

Q: And I was pleased when I was talking in Mexico, for example with President Salinas, that he is selling oil at — trying to help the burden by selling oil at bargain prices off of this inflated world price. So I think everybody should try to help. And I think the Saudis have made a lot of commitments to countries in trying to help out, and I hope they'll continue to do that, and I'm confident they will.

Q: If I could follow, sir, should Saudi Arabia have a military draft?

A: That's for the Saudi Arabians to decide. I don't think the United States needs one, incidentally.

Q: If you ultimately feel that you have to ask Americans to support the use of force, what that, of course, means is that you

have to ask some parents to give up the lives of their children.

A: I know it.

Q: And what I was wondering was, we all know how important your children are to you. Do you feel that this issue is important enough to you that you could conceive of giving up one of their lives for it?

A: You know, you've put your finger on a very difficult question. People say to me, "How many lives, how many lives can you expend?" Each one is precious. And I don't want to reminisce, but I've been there. I know what it's like to have fallen comrades and see young kids die in battle.

Q: And it's only the president that should be asked to make the decision: Is it worth it? How many lives is it worth? Is it worth it to commit one life, put one life in harm's way to achieve these objectives? And that's why I want to get a peaceful resolution to this

question.

Q: You ought to read my mail. It is so heart moving. Supportive, and yet, "please bring my kid home." Please bring my husband home." And it's a tough question, but the president has to make the right decision, and these are worldwide principles of moral importance. And I will do my level best to bring those kids home without one single shot fired in anger. And if a shot is fired in anger, I want to guarantee each person that their kid whose life is in harm's way will have the maximum support, will have the best chance to come home alive, and will be backed up to the hilt.

Q: And that's why — because of that question that weighs on my mind, I added that language this morning about how this will not be a Vietnam. They can criticise me for moving force, and if we've got

under former President Ronald Reagan and ran Bush's presidential election campaign in 1988.

His handling of Saddam could mean the difference between war and peace and profoundly affect Bush's political future.

Baker, who is often called "Mr. cautious," assumed a low profile in the days following Iraq's invasion of Kuwait on Aug. 2. This led to speculation that he did not fully support Bush's strategy of dispatching thousands of troops to the Gulf to deter Iraq from further aggression.

But he has gradually emerged into the limelight as the guiding force behind Washington's Gulf policy.

Tireless diplomacy by Baker succeeded in building up international support for a critical U.N. Security Council resolution authorising force against Iraq if it

fails to withdraw its troops from Kuwait by Jan. 15.

The resolution was adopted 12 to 2 with one abstention on Thursday after Baker had undertaken a high-profile odyssey around the globe, meeting each of the council's 15 foreign ministers.

Armed with the U.N. vote, Bush offered on Friday to "go the extra mile" by holding direct talks with Iraq to try to prevent an increasingly likely war.

In a televised statement, he offered to send Baker to Baghdad to meet Saddam in the second week of December.

"He's got to understand what the alternatives are to comply with the United Nations resolution. And the best way to get that across is one-on-one, Baker looking him right in the eye," Bush said. He also invited Iraqi Foreign

Minister Tariq Aziz to Washington for talks in the White House.

Like Bush, Baker is known as a moderate, pragmatic Republican who is driven more by political instinct than ideology.

He has no specific background in foreign policy, but has generally received high marks as secretary of state.

Analysts note his skillful handling of German unification and his establishment of closer ties with the Soviet Union.

But Baker has been criticised for allowing the close relations the United States has with Israel to deteriorate and for poor handling of the run-up to the Gulf crisis.

Critics fault him for not taking Iraq's build-up of troops on the Kuwaiti border seriously enough before the invasion.

God forbid that war took place, particularly Arab against Arab and Muslims against Muslims, the wounds would be very deep. So I would imagine one scenario is that they may be looking at the origins of the disputes.

Q: As you know, we have talked recently with your brother-in-law, King Hussein. He has shed some light on what has been going on a little more specifically between Jordan and Iraq, and suggested that Arab discussion had been going on within the Arab community and that he may again travel to Baghdad sometime soon. If he does, do you think His Majesty will talk President Saddam to accept the deal?

A: We have from the beginning insisted on international legitimacy and our discussion with Iraq very clear as far as accepting the deal. There is no deal struck yet. It is basically unconditional withdrawal from Kuwait and the restoration of the emir which conforms with other positions. However, if the deal is Resolution 660 I remind again of paragraph 3 which calls for direct negotiations between Iraq and Kuwait. So it is not a question of Iraqi acceptance but it is also a question of Arab acceptance. That means Saudi Arabia, Egypt and the other Arab members of the alliance.

## Baker to Baghdad: Bush taps deal-maker for tough role

By Carol Giacomo  
Reuter

WASHINGTON — The man President George Bush wants to send to Baghdad to look Iraqi leader Saddam Hussein "right in the eye" is a shrewd tactician who believes in the art of the deal.

Secretary of State James Baker has held some of the toughest jobs in Washington, where horse-trading is a way of life.

Now Bush feels that he should negotiate directly with the wily and tough Iraqi leader, "looking him right in the eye" without blinking.

Baker, a 60-year-old millionaire from Bush's adopted home state of Texas, has been a close friend and political associate of the president for 30 years. He served as treasury secretary and as a senior White House aide

that Security Council Resolution 678, which was adopted Thursday, endorsing the use of force against Iraq appeared to be loose-knit. "There is in that resolution no point of reference in the Security Council yet as to how troops effectively would function; there is no reference to the Military Staff Committee (of the U.N.) which should be a (coordinator), representing the permanent five (members of the Security Council); there is no unified command as such," he pointed out.

Following are some of the questions and answers from the Crown Prince's interview with CNN:

Question: I understand that President Bush has been (on the phone) with the Saudis and King Fahd today and President (Hosni) Mubarak (of Egypt) has been also on the phone with King Fahd. What do you think the Arab World is saying?

Answer: I think that they are looking into this last chance resolution and indeed now the president's invitation and trying to define what the collective position of the alliance will be. As you recall 12 other countries supported the military build-up in the region. However, there are nine Arab countries which have not opted for the military option and the military build-up. I would hope they will be discussing how best to heal the wounds in Arab

comment, from a bright person like you. That is absolutely absurd. They're holding hearings. They're talking. They have the power under the adjournment resolution to reconvene this minute. Some in the House want to come back now. Some want to talk about it later on. Some in the Senate want to come right back now and immediately endorse what the president has done and what the Security Council resolution is, and I'm for that. But some don't. And so consultation is going on. Please do not assign to me improper motives. We're — they're talking right now. They're having endless hearings by endless experts up there, each one with a slightly different view. And that's the American way. And that's fine. And I know what the responsibilities of the president are, and I am fulfilling those responsibilities. (USIS).

Q: Well, sir, you seem to give — you and Jim Baker give the other countries a chance to talk, and you give the United Nations a chance to talk, but you won't give the United States people a chance to debate with you.

Q: Is there a question in there somewhere?

A: Well, now, that's an absurd

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«Météorage»

## La foudre sous surveillance

«Et du haut de l'Olympe, Zeus brandit la foudre...» Il est fort probable que c'est à ce phénomène météorologique que, bien avant la mythologie grecque, l'Homme dut la possession du feu...

Manifestation terrifiante aux conséquences parfois cataclysmiques, la foudre fut longtemps reconnue comme d'origine divine. Ce n'est que vers le milieu du XVIII<sup>ème</sup> siècle que des savants s'y intéressèrent de plus près, bien souvent au péril de leur vie: Franklin et bien d'autres

avaient imaginé de lancer des cerfs-volants par temps d'orage en les retenant par une ficelle mouillée! Nous lui devons néanmoins l'invention du paratonnerre.

Il n'en demeure pas moins que la foudre frappe souvent et qu'on ne compte pas moins d'un million d'arcs électriques chaque année entre le sol de la France et le ciel, avec parfois des recrudescences telles que le 8 mai 1989, où la foudre s'est abattue plus de 25.000 fois en cette seule journée.

Beaucoup de connaissances ont été acquises ces dernières années sur les mécanismes qui conditionnent l'orage et l'apparition de la foudre. Il suffit d'une dizaine de kilomètres carrés de sol surchauffé pour que l'air propulsé par la chaleur et souvent aidé par le relief, monte en une colonne verticale si rapide qu'il se condense en gouttelettes d'eau et devient un nuage monstrueux de 5 à 12.000 mètres d'épaisseur, qui peut se déplacer à plus de 100 km/h en accumulant une énorme quantité d'énergie.

L'air, qui se refroidit trop vite à cette altitude, se fige en cristaux de glace: la différence de température entre le sol et le sommet du nuage crée un véritable condensateur accumulant plusieurs millions de volts entre le sommet du nuage (pôle positif) et sa base (pôle négatif). L'ensemble planant au-dessus du sol, c'est à dire la Terre, elle-même pôle fortement positif: les niveaux atteints sont tellement élevés qu'une décharge devient inévitable.

Tout commence alors par un pré-éclair, naissant au sol à partir de n'importe quel objet pointu et montant à l'assaut du ciel à 1.000 km/seconde pour y rencontrer un autre précurseur qui naît, lui, de la base du nuage, le tout presque invisible à l'œil nu. Leur rencontre crée le canal conducteur sur lequel l'éclair, tel que nous le connaissons, se formera quelques secondes plus tard en un formidable court-circuit de 200.000 à 400.000 ampères, montant du sol à la vitesse de 300.000 km/seconde. En quelques micro-secondes, la chaleur est telle que l'air chauffé à plus de 30.000 degrés se dilate brusquement en une onde de choc que nous appelons le tonnerre.

Les conséquences de la libération brutale de ces énormes quantités d'énergie sont loin d'être négligeables. Elles sont d'abord humaines, puisque l'on compte aux environs de 50 morts par an, mais aussi animales: 200 bêtes sont foudroyées, ce qui mérite d'être pris en compte, ne serait-ce que sur le plan économique, ainsi que les innombrables dégâts matériels.

Autre conséquence: ces quantités d'énergie électrique, que l'on évalue à la puissance des premières bombes nucléaires, concentrées sur un très bref instant, engendrent une onde radio-électrique sur plusieurs kilomètres: ce que ne supportent pas les installations électriques ni les réseaux informatiques si complexes et si répandus. Elles entraînent aussi de réels dangers dans les industries de transformation chimique, pétrolière, électronique, ne serait-ce d'ailleurs que par les risques que provoque une coupure de courant inopinée. Le danger n'est pas moindre pour la circulation aérienne.



pour les fusées (Apollo XII en 1969... et récemment une Ariane (TV-SAT IV) dont le départ dut être retardé), ainsi qu'en mer où, chaque année, des cargos sont foudroyés.

C'est pourquoi une société privée a installé en France un réseau de surveillance unique au monde qui fonctionne depuis trois ans. Le système «Météorage-Franklin» a disposé sur l'ensemble du territoire 18 capteurs auxiliaires s'ajoutant à 3 autres capteurs mis en place en Suisse (les orages étant particulièrement redoutables en montagne).

Autant de zones surveillées où le capteur enregistre les ondes radio-électriques chaque fois que la foudre frappe, permettant de localiser l'orage dans un rayon de 300 km avec une précision de 1 à 3 km. Mis au point par l'ONERA (Etudes et Recherches Aéronautiques), le dispositif commercialisé par la société «Dimensions» utilise l'interférométrie magnétique et les variations du champ électrostatique, le tout relayé sur les écrans Minitel des abonnés.

Une version légère, d'un coût de 120.000 FF permet aux industriels concernés d'être prévenus à temps et d'interrompre ou de différer des opérations sensibles (fabrication de composants électroniques, d'explosifs, de produits instables ou inflammables,

etc.). Une version plus élaborée est destinée aux aéroports, à l'armée (explosifs, missiles...) et aux centres spatiaux, dont celui de Kourou, en Guyane.

Il est bien évident que cela intéresse beaucoup les scientifiques, qui disposent ainsi d'un moyen efficace pour étudier de plus près les orages et constituer des archives indispensables: jusqu'à présent, ils ne pouvaient compter que sur les bonnes volontés locales qui leur signalaient qu'il y avait eu un orage tel jour à telle heure et, bien évidemment, sans aucune mesure quantitative. Chose curieuse à ce sujet: on a constaté que les plus violents orages, les «super-bolts» à 400.000 ampères, étaient l'apanage des orages d'hiver, d'octobre à mai.

Il est non moins évident que cette surveillance des zones orageuses joue un rôle dans le domaine de la protection civile, et notamment en ce qui concerne les épouvantables incendies de forêt que la foudre allume chaque année. Il y a aussi les assureurs qui ne négligent pas ces données leur permettant de déjouer des manœuvres abusives... Loin d'être un luxe scientifique, la localisation des orages a donné le coup de foudre à bien des secteurs de l'économie française.

Jean Chabrier

## Les collaborateurs du «Jourdain» sous les feux de la rampe

Vous connaissez tous les talents de plume de Flavia Romero et de Sami Kamal, qui aujourd'hui encore jettent sur cette page les lumières de leur colonne hebdomadaire. Vous aurez bientôt l'occasion de les voir et les entendre puisqu'ils animeront, tous les deux cette semaine, l'actualité culturelle d'Amman.

C'est de cuisine — une de ses passions — que Flavia Romero parlera, le mercredi 5 à 18h, au Centre Culturel Français. Intitulée «Que le feu soit... et la cuisine fut», cette conférence retracera l'histoire de la préparation des mets et de la confection des plats. Une histoire qui reflète les cultures propres à chaque espace ou période de civilisation et dont les origines sont entourées de mystère...

Cette conférence s'inscrit dans le cadre de la semaine de la cuisine française qui se tient au Marriott du 2 au 8 décembre.

De son côté, au Goethe Institut, Sami Kamal présentera chacun des films du festival Fritz Lang qui débutera le mardi 4 à 20h pour se terminer le 29 décembre. (Voir FOCUS.) Sami Kamal, diplômé du département cinéma et télévision de l'Université de Californie à Los Angeles (UCLA), évoquera l'âge d'or du cinéma allemand — l'expressionnisme — dont Fritz Lang, qui aurait 100 ans cette année, est un des plus prestigieux représentants.

Deux prestations à ne pas manquer, si la culture vous intéresse et vous émeut...

## A L'AFFICHE

### Centenaire Fritz Lang

### Maudit mais moral

Le festival couvrant la période allemande du cinéaste Fritz Lang — au Goethe Institut durant le mois de décembre — nous propose une série de films dont certains ont fait date.

Les deux premières œuvres — *Dr Mabuse des Spielers* (1922) et les *Nibelungen* (1923-1925) — appartiennent à un chapitre extraordinaire du cinéma muet. La période d'après guerre, entre 1919 et 1925, fut caractérisée par des trouvailles de metteurs-en-scène allemands portant sur l'évolution du langage cinématographique (éclairage, décors, thématiques). Fritz Lang, une de ses vedettes, s'imposa par une esthétique rigoureuse et la moralité exigeante avec laquelle il a traité des obsessions philosophiques allemandes de l'époque. Cette parabole politique parlait déjà en 1922 des dangers d'une idéologie du surhomme et de la volonté de puissance. Dix ans après, en 1933, un second film, présenté comme un tableau de son temps, *Das Testament des Dr Mabuse* (le dimanche 9) aura pour héros un fou dément des préceptes du National-Socialisme. Le parti nazi qui venait de s'installer au pouvoir le censura, faisant ainsi du *Testament* le dernier film allemand de Fritz Lang, qui quitta l'Allemagne le soir même de l'interdiction.

C'est encore comme du témoignage d'une époque qu'on peut parler des *Nibelungen* traduction cinématographique de l'épopée des Allemands. Produite à un moment difficile dans la vie politique du pays — la jeune république de Weimar était en train de se mettre en place — elle avait pour but, selon Lang, de rallier les gens du pays autour d'un appel à leur passé légendaire. Si cette œuvre — en deux parties: *Siegfried* (le samedi 15) et *Kriemhilds Rache* (le dimanche 16) — s'impose aujourd'hui encore, c'est moins pour son importance socio-politique que par le fait qu'elle représente, par son emploi méticuleux de l'acteur, par ses décors minutieusement construits et par sa cadence étudiée, un aspect de l'art plastique du réalisateur.

Avant de passer à son chef-d'œuvre de la même époque et son premier film parlant, *«M»* (Else Stadt sucht den Mörder) (1930), le Maudit, 1931), le programme anticipe. Ayant fait les nazis en 1933, Lang se fit connaître du public de son pays d'adoption — les Etats-Unis — par *Fury* (1936), le drame macabre d'un lynchage qui fut aussi une étude de la «voynocratie». Peu après, il repartit le travail dans les genres qui lui inspiraient un commentaire social: le policier et les drames d'aventures, se bûchant une deuxième carrière à Hollywood. Celle-ci sera représentée dans le festival par un troisième genre, purement américain, le Western. Le retour de Frank James (le samedi 22), premier des trois films qu'il a tournés, avec Western Union (1941) et *Rancho notorio* (1953), soulignera des thèmes entrecroisés et familiers: vengeance, justice et corruption.

Côtant le festival, *«M»* le samedi 16, l'histoire d'un tueur d'enfants recherché autant par la police que par la pègre. A part l'interrogation sur la validité d'une justice rendue par des criminels, ce drame psychologique montre clairement comment l'expressionnisme a fini par s'intégrer. Il est aussi distingué par la fascinante interprétation par Peter Lorre d'un meurtrier malgré lui, une des plus estimées encore de l'histoire du cinéma.

Sami Kamal

### EXPOSITIONS

**Agaba.** Exposition de photographies présentant la «Forêt Goethe» située non loin de Tafelberg, qui a reçu ce nom en 1987 par décret royal en hommage aux spécialistes allemands qui l'ont plantée. Agaba Visitors Center, du mardi 4 décembre à 15h30 (inauguration) jusqu'au 10 décembre.

**Kawa.** En 36 panneaux illustrés de photographies noir et blanc, un hommage au café et à la civilisation des hommes qui le découvrit, de la Grèce à l'Egypte, en passant par la Turquie et la Jordanie. «L'Orient des cafés», au Centre Culturel Français à partir du 3 décembre et jusqu'à la fin de mai.

### DIVERS

**Enfants.** Film en allemand pour les enfants présenté en vidéo et intitulé «Die pyramide des Sonnengottes» (La pyramide des dieux Soleil). Institut Goethe, le samedi 3 décembre, à 16h.

## TELEVISION

### DIMANCHE

17h30 — «Grand prix». Téléfilm policier de la série «Les cinq dernières minutes».

19h00 — Le Journal.

19h15 — Cimetière de notes. Extraits de musique classique.

### LUNDI

18h00 — L'oiseau des mers. Dessin animé.

18h10 — Devenir le dernier dinosaure. Dessin animé.

19h35 — Aventures voyages. Magazine de l'aventure.

19h00 — Le Journal.

19h15 — Magazine sportif hebdomadaire.

### MARDI

18h00 — Le vent domestique. Dessin animé.

18h10 — L'école des fées. Des enfants interprètent le répertoire d'un chanteur célèbre, sous la houlette de Jacques Martin.

19h35 — Aventures voyages. Magazine de l'aventure.

19h00 — Le Journal.

19h15 — Sélection de variétés françaises.

### MERCREDI

18h00 — «De Gaulle ou l'éternel défi». Cinquième épisode de la série de Jean Lacouture sur ce grand personnage français qui aurait en cent ans cette année.

19h00 — Le Journal.

19h15 — Sélection de variétés françaises.

### JEUDI

18h00 — L'oiseau des mers. Dessin animé.

18h10 — Smokey. Dessin animé.

18h35 — Splendeur sauvage. Documentaire sur la vie des animaux.

19h00 — Le Journal.

19h15 — Reportages d'actualité.

### VENREDI

17h30 — «Le sucre». Film français avec Michel Piccoli sur les professionnels de la spéculation.

19h00 — Le Journal.

19h15 — Histoire de l'art. Série documentaire.

### SAMEDI

18h00 — Les fruits de la passion. Les meilleurs moments de cette émission qui retrace le parcours de sportifs célèbres.

19h00 — Le Journal.

19h15 — Aujourd'hui en France. Magazine culturel français.

## CINEMA

**Cinéma.** Le CCF inaugure cette semaine son mois du court métrage. Ce mardi, il propose sept films courts d'une dizaine de minutes chacun.

On ne sait pas toujours que de nombreux grands cinéastes, tels que Louis Malle ou François Truffaut, ont souvent réalisé avec brio des courts métrages au cours de leur carrière. Souvent ignorés du public ces films constituent pour beaucoup d'entre eux de véritables joyaux de septième art. Centre Culturel Français, le 4 décembre à 20h.

Sans blague!

## Aristote et l'affaire palestinienne

[Pour être bien conseillé, Bush, encore vice-président, entreprit de faire construire un ordinateur super-géant (baptisé Aristote) doté d'un système d'intelligence artificielle extrêmement perfectionné. Tout récemment mis en service, celui-ci avait déjà convaincu Bush qu'il était dans l'intérêt des Etats-Unis de laisser les Arabes résoudre eux-mêmes la crise du Golfe.]

Sa partie de golf achevée, Bush revint dans son bureau oval et s'empressa de décrocher le téléphone rose et de composer le numéro de code d'Aristote. Immédiatement, il entendit une voix devenue familière lui dire:

«Bonjour M. le président. Je suis à votre disposition. «Bonjour Aristote. J'aimerais discuter aujourd'hui d'un conflit qui traîne depuis fort longtemps et qui commence à embarrasser sérieusement notre politique au Moyen-Orient: le conflit palestinien.

«Dans cette affaire, une chose me chiffonne: pourquoi au départ avoir choisi de soutenir Israël?

«On pensait avoir un Etat «à nous» au Moyen-Orient. Sa mission devait être de faire la police dans le coin, de déstabiliser et de retarder le développement des pays de la région et de nous aider du point de vue «intelligence». Moyennant tout cela, on était prêt à lui verser quelques milliards par an.

«En pratique, Israël a échoué dans la plupart des objectifs énumérés. Dans la crise du Golfe, non seulement il n'a été d'aucune utilité (on a dû envoyer nos propres forces en Arabie) mais il a constitué un fardeau extrêmement embarrassant. Par ailleurs, il s'est avéré en plusieurs occasions, et en particulier dans l'affaire de nos Marines au Liban d'octobre 1983, qu'Israël était prêt à sacrifier nos intérêts aux siens: le Mossad, quoiqu'au courant de l'attentat à la voiture piégée a fait exprès de ne pas en informer la CIA; cela nous a finalement coûté 241 victimes et nous a obligés à effectuer un retrait des plus humiliants au Liban.

«N'empêche que, du point de vue de la déstabilisation et de la création d'obstacles au progrès des pays de la région, Israël a parfaitement réussi!

«Ça conduit à la naissance du terrorisme ainsi qu'à la haine et à la méfiance de tout les peuples de la région à notre égard. Ce n'est indéniablement pas à notre intérêt. C'est plutôt — et encore

très discutablement — dans l'intérêt des Sionistes, qui continuent à rêver de réaliser le Grand Israël.

«Néanmoins, comment envisager d'assurer un écoulement régulier du pétrole de la région sans un Israël omniprésent?

«N'est-ce pas l'opposé qui s'est produit? Ce qu'il faudrait plutôt reconnaître, c'est que ce sont les agressions et l'intransigeance d'Israël qui ont été jusqu'à la seule responsables des à-coups ressentis dans l'approvisionnement en pétrole: en 1956, l'attaque tripartite contre l'Egypte, dans laquelle Israël a joué un rôle prépondérant, a bloqué le canal de Suez pendant plusieurs mois. Ce canal a encore été bloqué par la suite, mais cette fois-ci pour huit ans, à cause de la guerre déclenchée par l'Etat hébreu en juin 1967. L'embargo décrété sur le pétrole par les pays arabes producteurs à l'automne 1973, quoique résultant de la guerre déclenchée cette fois «contre Israël» par l'Egypte et la Syrie, n'était en fait que la conséquence logique et prévisible de notre partialité à l'égard de l'Etat hébreu et du refus de celui-ci de se retirer des territoires égyptiens, syriens et palestiniens occupés par la force en 1967. Il semblerait donc que l'approvisionnement régulier en pétrole du Moyen-Orient ne pourrait être assuré que si on cessait de soutenir l'attitude agressive et expansionniste d'Israël et si la justice était rétablie dans cette région, car seule la justice pourrait y amener paix et stabilité.

«Vous avez probablement raison. Néanmoins il y a plus important: Israël est seul à pouvoir empêcher les Etats islamiques de la région de s'unir et de menacer le monde libre.

«M. le président, je regrette de vous dire que la propagande sioniste vous a fait subir un lavage de cerveau soigné: tout d'abord, la notion de «monde libre», valable du temps du rideau de fer, est complètement périmée de nos jours car tous les pays sont maintenant libres ou en passe de le devenir. Dans le processus inéluctable vers la démocratie, Israël ne fait que retarder la transformation de certains pays totalitaires du Moyen-Orient en pays véritablement libres. Quant à «l'Empire musulman» que vous semblez tellement redouter, il a bien existé et était très puissant au Moyen-Age. Alors seulement il pouvait représenter une menace aux yeux de certains catholiques superstitieux et ignorants, dont Nostradamus (le soi-disant astrologue). Mais à l'aube du XXI<sup>ème</sup> siècle!

«Et le phénomène Khomeiny en Iran, et la poussée du fondamentalisme en Jordanie, en Palestine, en Egypte, en Algérie et ailleurs?

«C'est un fait bien établi, M. le président, que lorsque l'homme est acculé (et quand je dis l'homme, j'embrasse, si j'ose dire, la femme), il ne lui reste que Dieu vers qui se tourner. Supprimons le sentiment de frustration résultant de la misère, de l'ignorance, de l'injustice et de l'insécurité et nous supprimerons le fondamentalisme, non seulement dans les pays islamiques mais aussi en Inde et même en Irlande! Arrêtons donc les méfaits d'Israël au Moyen-Orient et nous y supprimerons toute forme d'intolérance.

«Et dire qu'Israël nous coûte trois milliards par an!

«Pardonnez-moi, M. le président. Il nous coûte près de dix milliards, sans compter le tort et la haine qu'il nous cause.

«Ah, là non, Aristote, pas dix milliards: trois seulement! Quatre à la rigueur.

«Place aux chiffres. Pour l'année fiscale en cours, nous avons déjà consenti à Israël trois milliards en aide directe, sept cent millions en matériel militaire et quatre cent millions en prêts pour loger les immigrés soviétiques.

«Tout cela ne fait que quatre milliards cent millions.

«Il y a encore environ six milliards que le service d'impôts sur le revenu va perdre cette année à cause d'Israël.

Six milliards?

«Parfaitement: d'après la loi relative à l'impôt sur le revenu, les dons faits par les personnes ou les entreprises américaines à nos organisations charitables ou à celles des pays amis (dont bien sûr Israël), sont déduits des bénéfices taxables du donneur. Comme l'Agence juive recevra en principe cette année des dons de près de dix milliards des huit millions de juifs américains, ces dons, une fois déduits des bénéfices des donateurs, nous feront perdre six milliards en impôts!

«Si Israël recevait ainsi dix milliards par an, pourquoi a-t-il tellement poussé pour finaliser le prêt de quatre cent millions?

«M. le président, l'Agence juive reçoit bien en principe dix milliards, mais Israël n'en perçoit qu'à peine un seul.

«Est-ce une devinette Aristote?

«Non, M. le président. Simplement lorsque un Juif américain fait un don, disons de mille dollars, l'Agence juive lui remet un reçu

pour dix mille ou plus. C'est le montant marqué sur le reçu qui est déduit des bénéfices taxables.

«Bonté divine! On devrait au plus vite modifier cette loi. Mais comment faire avec le lobby juif sur les bras?

«Il faudrait mieux méconter huit millions de Juifs que deux cent quarante millions d'Américains non-juifs. Tôt ou tard, le pot aux roses sera découvert; on aura alors un «Taxgate» ou un «Jewgate» avec, sûrement, une flambée terrible d'anti-sémitisme.

Un jour! Mais comment contourner l'opposition immédiate du lobby juif?

«Faites seulement réunir des preuves sur la pratique de la fraude (je suis sûr que vous y arriverez). Une fois en possession de documents suffisants, menacez de les divulguer si la loi n'était pas amendée au plus vite.

«Génial! Mais comment dissocier le lobby juif d'Israël?

«Simplement en amendant ladite loi. A ce moment-là, les Juifs américains n'auront plus aucun intérêt à soutenir Israël et vous aurez les mains libres pour faire ce que bon vous semble au Moyen-Orient.

Bush commençait à ressentir un mal de crâne terrible. Aristote venait de lui proposer le moyen de neutraliser le tout puissant lobby juif, après lui avoir déjà montré comment envoyer au tapis le lobby du pétrole et celui des fabricants d'armement. «Je pourrais alors vraiment gouverner, pensait-il, à condition toutefois que j'en réchappe». Il prit congé d'Aristote pour se donner le temps de se ressaisir.

Sabri Farah

## Le déserteur

Vous avez aimé les bonnes pages que nous avons publiées ces dernières semaines du roman de Noël Favrelière intitulé «Le déserteur»? Vous souhaitez connaître la suite et la fin de cette histoire mouvementée? Sachez que vous pouvez emprunter le livre à la bibliothèque du Centre Culturel Français, où il est à votre disposition.



# Economy

## Trade officials gather for make-or-break talks

BRUSSELS (AP) — Hundreds of officials from around the world gathered Saturday in a last-ditch effort to end disputes over farm subsidies and other issues threatening to scuttle an attempt to reform world trade.

About 2,500 officials were expected to arrive in Brussels over the weekend to get ready for Monday's start of a final week of hard bargaining in the 107-nation Uruguay Round.

The four-year round of talks, named for the country where they began, are the most comprehensive trade negotiations ever.

But even before they sat down to deal, some officials said there is not enough time to complete their ambitious goals.

A British official, demanding anonymity, said: "It is now impractical that the round could be completed in its entirety next week."

The ministers, he said, may make key political decisions and leave it up to aides to fill in the details of an agreement during the remainder of December and in January.

Or, he said the issues could prove so difficult to resolve that the talks would be broken off and resumed at a later date. But he said such an option could be dangerous and "not all that easy to recover."

"If the round ends (this) week, it's going to end in failure," said Jeffery Schott, research fellow at the Institute of International Economics in Washington.

"At best, it can provide some political breakthroughs on the

issues that negotiators have been unable to even talk about," he said.

The Uruguay Round is designed to draw up a new agreement that would overhaul the world trading system by, among other things, writing new rules and reducing tariffs — a sort of tax levied on goods imported by a country — and other barriers to trade in 15 areas.

Those include agriculture, manufactured goods, textiles and such services as banking, transportation and telecommunications. World merchandise trade reached \$3.1 trillion in 1989.

The main stumbling block to an agreement is a sharp dispute between the United States and the European Community (EC) over making deep cuts in government payments to farmers.

The U.S. government, backed by Australia, Argentina and others, wants the EC to strip away much of its expensive network of farm support programs, making cuts ranging from 75 per cent to 90 per cent.

The 12-nation trading bloc, also known as the common market, has so far refused, offering a 30 per cent trim in limited areas.

France and Germany have been the most resistant to further cuts, although the German government, anxious about the farm vote in Sunday's nationwide elections, may ease its stand once the balloting is out of the way.

The United States and poorer nations heavily dependent on farm exports contend that a new

trade agreement would be worthless without a weighty package on agriculture.

As a result, officials said the farm fight will have to be resolved early in the week if other issues are to be tackled.

The dispute over agriculture "is likely to be brought to a head quite quickly in the first half of the week," said the British official.

The middle of the week has been dubbed in this French-speaking capital as "crisis Wednesday" or "crisis Wednesday," meaning a crisis in the talks could erupt Wednesday.

The United States and the European Community are also at odds over new rules — there are none now — covering the \$680-billion annual trade in a banking, tourism, construction, telecommunications and other services.

The EC wants the United States to go along with a non-discriminatory clause so that trade concessions granted to one nation must be given to all partners in the accord. This is called "most favoured nation" treatment.

But in a last-minute demand, the United States has insisted that aviation, shipping and telecommunications be exchanged in negotiations over rules governing intellectual property rights, or protection of ideas, such as copyrights, trademarks and patents.

The United States contends copyright piracy and counterfeiting, much of it in developing nations, have cost American

businesses about \$60 billion in lost sales annually.

The negotiators also will be pushing to get agreements for an overall reduction in tariffs of about one-third, rules to limit restrictions on foreign investment and a phase-out of quotas on textile imports from developing countries.

Western nations will work for tougher measures aimed at keeping Japan and other nations from "dumping" products — selling goods at too-low prices — on their markets.

Japan, for its part, will be trying to maintain its ban on rice imports to protect that country's small farmers.

Developing countries want barriers eased on sales to rich nations of their agricultural products, such as coffee, spices, nuts and fruits.

The negotiators are under pressure to wrap up a deal quickly. U.S. President George Bush's government has to get an accord to the U.S. congress by March 1 as part of "fast-track" legislation, which prevents legislators from picking apart the arrangement.

The Uruguay Round was preceded by seven previous negotiating rounds, which have reduced tariffs sharply since the end of World War II.

The negotiations are sponsored by the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT), which was created in 1947 to promote the expansion of international commerce by reducing barriers to trade.

## British, French tunnellers meet under English Channel

FOLKESTONE, England (R) — Engineers digging a railway tunnel under the channel broke through the last dividing rock Saturday and joined Britain to mainland Europe for the first time since the ice age.

Workers from the French and British sides knocked down the last wall of chalk to merge their two tunnels into one, connecting Britain with continental Europe and allowing the first land crossing between the two in 8,000 years.

Champagne flowed and triumphant cheers went up in the crowded tunnel as the breach was made, 30 metres below the seabed and 22 kilometres from Britain and 15 kilometres from France.

The two national work teams poured through the narrow gap opened in the rock to greet one another with hugs and handshakes and to share a champagne toast.

The tunnel breakthrough was hailed on both sides as a milestone on the road to European unity.

"C'est superbe," said one French tunneller, savouring the sense of history being made after three years' hard digging.

"Great," was the verdict from the British side, delivered by the tunnel project's technical director, Colin Kirkland.

French President François Mitterrand said it was a "striking sign of the vitality of the two countries and the efficiency of their cooperation."

British Prime Minister John Major said in a statement: "This is one of the great engineering feats of all time, and a symbol of the opportunities that will exist throughout the new Europe."

The middle passage was cleared by two workers chosen by ballot, one from each tunnelling team. They shook hands and exchanged flags to shouted greet-

ings in broken French and English and cries of "vive la France."

The tunnel will be a service passage between the two railway tunnels, which, when completed, will carry passengers and freight the 50-kilometre journey under the channel.

Groups of workers and officials set off by railcars for the tunnel entrances to become the first people to make the land crossing between Britain and France since the ice age, when the channel, a 40-kilometre divide, was created.

The French and British transport ministers, Michel Delebarre and Malcolm Rifkind, also met underground.

Saturday's breakthrough draws a reluctant Britain closer to Europe as part of the moves toward a single market in 1992.

"One feels one is a European," said Sir John Gruegon, chairman of the county council in Kent, where the British tunnel entrance lies.

An excited French television commentator compared the event to man's first steps on the moon, saying the name of tunneller Philippe Cozette would enter the history books alongside that of American astronaut Neil Armstrong.

But French television said there was notably less enthusiasm in Britain.

## Matsushita to buy MCA for \$5.8 b

WASHINGTON (AP) — Matsushita Electric Industrial Company expects to spend about \$5.8 billion, most of it through short-term borrowing, to acquire U.S. entertainment giant MCA Incorporated.

In a filing with the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC), Matsushita said it expected to raise \$1 billion of the estimated purchase price through internally generated funds and the remaining \$4.8 billion through the sale of commercial paper, or short-term corporate loans.

In previous reports, the deal was valued at just over \$6 billion.

The deal, the largest Japanese purchase of a U.S. company, was announced Monday but some of the details had not been previously disclosed.

The SEC documents also said that Allen and Company, a New York investment banking firm acting as Matsushita's financial adviser, stands to collect \$8 million in fees once the Japanese company acquires more than 50 per cent of MCA's shares. Even if the deal doesn't go through, Allen and Co. could make \$2 million if someone else steps in and buys more than 50 per cent of MCA at a higher price.

## Riyadh writes off Egypt's debts

RIYADH (AP) — King Fahd has endorsed writing off \$4.5 billion in loans to Egypt, apparently as a reward for Egypt's support in the Gulf crisis.

The debt waiver had been reported previously, but the king's decision Friday made it official.

A royal court edict late Friday said a Saudi delegation to a planned joint Egyptian-Saudi Arabian committee would "execute" that order.

Egypt is the leading Arab country siding with Saudi Arabia and Kuwait against Iraq in the Gulf, contributing the largest non-Western contingent to the multinational troop buildup in the standoff with President Saddam Hussein over Iraq's Aug. 2 invasion of

Kuwait.

Egypt's role has proved to be a windfall for President Hosni Mubarak's government as the United States and the Arab allies are now writing off \$14 billion in debt.

That is almost one-third of its \$50 billion debt that for years has crippled the Egyptian economy.

Forgiveness of a \$6.7 billion Egyptian debt to the United States was part of a foreign aid programme Congress approved and sent to U.S. President George Bush before adjourning its session late October.

Other billions of dollars for which Egypt has been forgiven are from other oil-rich Gulf Arab states, such as the United Arab Emirates and Qatar.

Saudi Arabia and these

countries already made their intentions clear about calling off the Egyptian debts on a tour that Mubarak made through the Gulf after Aug. 2.

The joint Egyptian-Saudi Arabian committee meeting in Cairo had been scheduled to start Saturday.

But it was postponed until Wednesday following Bush's surprise offer Friday to send Secretary of State James Baker to Baghdad for talks with Iraqi leaders on the Gulf crisis.

Egyptian officials said the postponement was at Saudi Arabia's request. Saudi sources said Cairo asked for the postponement.

The committee, which oversees political, economic and other cooperation between the two countries, was set up after the early 1988 restoration of

ties between Saudi Arabia and Egypt.

The Cairo meeting will be its third since then, and the sources said it will review the latest developments of the Gulf crisis on the political side.

Officials said it would cover an exchange of ratification documents for a major accord laying the framework for economic cooperation.

The two sides will discuss a "joint free market," the sources said.

They explained that this would practically mean free exchange of goods between the two countries if approved.

Maritime transport would be discussed as well as a planned causeway linking the two countries at the southern tip of the Arabian Peninsula, they added.

## U.S., Saudi Arabia to hold talks on oil

RIYADH (AP) — U.S. Energy Secretary James Watkins was expected to arrive Saturday for talks on the oil market situation and the kingdom's drive to boost oil output following Iraq's invasion of Kuwait.

Watkins was to spend a day in Riyadh for talks with Oil Minister Hisham Nazer before travelling to the eastern province, site of most of the kingdom's oil wells and scene of a huge multinational military buildup against Iraq.

Saudi Arabia, sitting on more than 25 per cent of the world's oil reserves, is a key element in helping oil market stability.

Helping to make up for the cutoff in exports from Iraq and Kuwait, Saudi Arabia is now producing more than 8.2 million barrel a day, a 57 per cent increase over its pre-crisis level.

Nazer has said he expects production to reach 8.5 million barrels a day by the end of the year.

Despite the threat of war over Iraq's Aug. 2 occupation of Kuwait, Saudi Arabia is proceeding with an ambitious \$15 billion project to expand capacity to 10

million barrels a day.

An expansion plan drawn up before the crisis called for reaching that level over the next eight to 10 years. But now the kingdom is considering accelerating the timetable, with dates of 1994 or even end-1992 being mentioned.

No official decision has been announced.

"Everybody has been very impressed with how fast Aramco has been able to bring their production up," said an oil industry executive, speaking on condition of anonymity.

While Saudi Aramco is now wholly Saudi owned, the original American owner giant companies are still major partners in the operation.

The source said that Nazer is likely to ask Watkins to "use his resources to do anything he can to help with the accelerated expansion."

That may include speeding up the acquisition of industrial equipment and the hiring of new Saudi Aramco employees.

## Italy takes new look at nuclear energy

ROME (R) — Italy, the only European Community (EC) country to dismantle an operating nuclear programme, has been forced to think again as the Gulf crisis sends oil prices soaring.

Nuclear energy is cheap, reliable and increasingly safe, say a growing number of Italian industrialists and politicians.

But their plans to avoid over-dependence on oil are still bitterly opposed by the country's strong Green lobby.

The world's sixth-biggest economy is almost totally dependent on imported oil, 36.6 per cent of it from the Gulf.

Every dollar per barrel increase in the price of oil adds around 900 billion lire (\$800 million) to Italy's annual fuel bill.

The price of a barrel of 15-day Brent, the North Sea market crude (second month), rose from some \$21 on August 1, the day before Iraq invaded Kuwait, to highs of \$40 in October, although it has fallen recently to \$30 or so.

"There is no immediate solution to an almost total dependence on imports and oil to meet our demand," the employers' organisation Cofindustria has said. "Nuclear energy is the only valid alternative."

In 1987, a national referendum voted to ban nuclear energy for five years after the Soviet nuclear power plant explosion in Chernobyl.

Ministers and industrialists are already pressing the government to look ahead, bearing in mind the long lead time between research and production.

In November Prime Minister Giulio Andreotti urged a reconsideration of the nuclear ban. He said it was time to take a more pragmatic approach to nuclear power in the light of energy demand and new technologies which can guarantee safety.

He said parliamentary debates before the moratorium had demonstrated a lack of "scientific sense...and short sighted decisions."

An energy saving plan drawn up by Industry Minister Adolfo Battaglia provides for a 430 billion lire (\$387 million) research budget on new "safe" nuclear technology.

"We are looking at technology which would close down the plant automatically if anything went wrong," Battaglia said.

He was referring to reactors with passive safety features which need no human intervention if an accident occurs.

Italy was the odd one out in the EC in renouncing nuclear energy after Chernobyl, he said.

"Look at France which produces 75 per cent of its energy needs from nuclear power, Spain 40, Germany 35 and we none. Why should we be the last of the class?"

He said it was ironic that Italy bought electricity produced from nuclear power from France at a low cost. "The French are still thanking us for the referendum," he added.

Battaglia said Italy was importing annually around 90 million tonnes of oil which cost the country \$20 billion.

This month the commercial television station, Retequattro, conducted a poll which showed 29 per cent of 1,400 viewers in favour of conventional nuclear power, 46 per cent in favour providing it was "super safe" and 26 totally against.

Massimo Scialoja, president of the Green party said "this type of safe nuclear reactor does not exist anywhere in the world, to speak of a safe nuclear reactor is to speak of nothing."

"Those who are agreeable to reopening the nuclear issue would not be happy to have a nuclear power station in their town."

A total of over 5,000 megawatts was lost from the ditching of the nuclear programme in 1987, costing the electricity board Ente Nazionale per l'Energia Elettrica (ENEL) some nine trillion lire (\$8.5 billion).

## Russian republic backs privatisation of land

MOSCOW (R) — The biggest Soviet republic, the Russian Federation, on Friday approved in principle a bill introducing private ownership of land, but the controversial reform could still be emasculated by conservative amendments.

A special Congress of People's Deputies, the highest body of republican authority, voted overwhelmingly for the measure as part of a package of agrarian reforms which many economists regard as the key to improving food supplies.

But the legislation was likely to face stiff conservative opposition before final approval and amendments could strip it of the crucial references to privatisation and buying and selling of land.

"The congress affirms the equality of multiple forms of property: State, kolhoz-cooperative, private, collective shareholding," the resolution said.

It also called for a reinforcement of "the mechanism of legal regulation of buying and selling of land in order to rule out land speculation and its irrational use."

Virtually all agricultural land in the Russian Federation is controlled by more than 24,000 state-run (sovkhoz) and collective (kolkhoz) farms.

Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev told a meeting of leading intellectuals this week he was opposed to privatisation of land.

"I am resolutely against private property on land," he said.

The Soviet leader also told a Moscow Communist Party plenary session that he favoured privatisation, but for small enterprises mostly in the services sector. "I think it will be small enterprises...where we have a lot of problems."

His comments will disappoint radical reformers and potential investors in the Soviet Union, who want the government to act decisively in breaking the state's stranglehold on the economy.

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## Baltic lawmakers call for Soviet troop withdrawal

VILNIUS, USSR (Agencies) — The parliaments of the three Baltic republics opened their first-ever joint session Saturday with demands that Soviet troops end their "occupation" and that Western countries recognise their independence.

"The occupation of the Baltic states... is a question of European security," Estonian President Arnold Rüutel said in a keynote address.

The focus of the day-long meeting was debate on five proposed declarations, including one for the removal of Soviet troops, and an appeal that the three republics become full members of the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe (CSCE).

"An appeal to the parliaments of the world" warned that the "continuing threat by the Soviet Union to use force against the territorial integrity and political independence of Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania directly contradicts the Soviet Union's renewed pledges outlined in the Paris charter and joint declaration" signed at the CSCE summit two weeks ago.

Estonia initially balked at attending the joint parliamentary session, called by Lithuanian President Vytautas Landsbergis, but the strong keynote speech by the Estonian president indicated fundamental agreement on major issues.

Latvian President Ananols Gorbunov also spoke, urging Moscow to conduct serious independence negotiations with the Baltic republics.

About 200 Latvian and 100 Estonian legislators attended the meeting with the 220 members of the Lithuanian parliament.

All three Baltic governments say they will not sign a union treaty proposed by Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev to preserve the unity of the 15 Soviet republics and the central authority of the Kremlin.

As the session got underway, demonstrators gathered outside, and they had divided opinions about the proceedings inside parliament.

About 200 protesters carried signs in Russian saying "yes to the union treaty" and "no to a division of the USSR," about 600 demonstrators, many waving yellow, green and red Lithuanian flags, sang patriotic songs in their native Lithuanian.

The two groups stood peacefully about 10 metres apart. Police watched but did not intervene.

The most controversial proposal at the joint session, according to Estonian delegates, said that "the USSR army deployed in our countries is an occupational army and for this reason, peaceful, civil actions demanding its withdrawal are legitimate."

"In demanding the withdrawal

of the Soviet army we should not take actions that could create hardships for military families or violate their human rights," the proposed declaration said.

Meanwhile, a large hardline bloc in the Soviet parliament Saturday demanded decisive steps from President Mikhail Gorbachev to halt the country's disintegration and said a conservative must get a new post of vice president.

Delegates to the founding congress of the Soyuz, or union, faction also demanded the resignation of Interior Minister Vadim Bakatin, saying he was soft on separatist violence and economic crime.

And leaders warned Gorbachev the group, which claims 468 members among the 2,050 deputies to the full Soviet parliament, would reserve the right to demand a vote of no confidence in his leadership.

"We believe the vice president must take on responsibility for domestic policy and be chosen on a competitive basis," Yuri Blokhin told about 300 delegates and guests.

Later, Blokhin said the group would look for its candidate from among "the most decisive members of the senior leadership in the republics."

The Soyuz meeting, called to prepare for the Dec. 17 opening

of the full Soviet parliament, the Congress of People's Deputies, raised the chances of a two-pronged attack on Gorbachev — from both a resurgent right and the restive left.

Joining the Soyuz leadership on stage for the session was Rafik Nishanov, chairman of one of the two houses of parliament.

In another sign of Soyuz's strength, the head of the giant Moscow Communist Party, Yuri Prokofiev, listened attentively from the hall. Prokofiev said he was there as an observer but might join the faction.

Generally a Gorbachev supporter, Prokofiev told reporters the troubled times facing the country demanded a strong, independent vice president.

"It should not be someone just to carry (Gorbachev's) briefcase," he said.

The faction — formed last February in the Soviet parliament but since expanded to include all levels of elected councils, or Soviets — was expected to approve a resolution demanding the preservation of the Soviet Union's present size and territory.

"We must recognise the fact that the people demand an active central government. The president must defend the centre," said Soyuz founder Viktor Alksnis.

## Bush vetoes intelligence bill

WASHINGTON (AP) — President George Bush has vetoed a 1991 intelligence bill, saying it could have a chilling effect on American diplomacy because it would restrict other countries carrying out covert actions for the United States.

The legislation authorises all U.S. intelligence activities in the year that began Oct. 1 and contained provisions aimed at gradually winding down American support for covert conflicts in Afghanistan, Angola and Cambodia.

Bush said he was withholding his signature from the measure primarily because it included under a new definition of "covert action" any U.S. request of a foreign government or private citizen to mount a covert action on America's behalf.

In a statement issued late Friday, Bush said the bill would have forbidden U.S. officials from the "expression of certain views" without prior notice to Congress.

Such a legal restriction could "seriously impair the effective conduct of our nation's foreign relations," Bush said. It could have a chilling effect on the ability of our diplomats to conduct highly sensitive discussions concerning projects that are vital to our national security."

House of Representatives Intelligence Committee Chairman Anthony C. Beilenson, who got no advance notice of the veto, said in a statement that he was "deeply disappointed" by the move and noted that he had been told the measure was going to be signed.

"This episode certainly will not contribute to the maintenance of what has been, up to this point, an excellent working relationship between the intelligence committees and the administration," Beilenson said.

And he said the provision Bush objected to was simply an attempt by Congress to ensure that the same standards apply to covert operations whether they are carried out directly or indirectly.

The bill, approved on Oct. 25, would authorise spending of roughly \$30 billion for intelligence activities around the globe.

## Bangladesh troops open fire at protesters killing 7

NEW DELHI (AP) — Bangladeshi troops opened fire on anti-government demonstrators Saturday in the capital, Dhaka, killing at least seven people, according to reports reaching India.

Bomb blasts and rifle fire echoed through several areas of Dhaka after a curfew was lifted during daytime hours in an effort to restore a semblance of normalcy following President Hussain Muhammad Ershad's declaration of a state of emergency Tuesday night.

Traffic came to a halt and shops closed Saturday in Dhaka during an all-day strike to demand the lifting of the state of emergency and Ershad's removal.

At least seven people were killed in a clash with security forces in the Mirpur neighbourhood on the western edge of Dhaka, according to witnesses whose information was relayed through unofficial channels to neighbouring India. Strict news censorship is in effect in Bangladesh under the state of emergency.

Sheik Hasina, one of the top opposition leaders, put the death toll at eight, according to a statement from her Awami League Party.

Another opposition party, Jamaat-E-Islami, said nine people were killed in the Mirpur clash.

Police also fought with anti-Ershad demonstrators in the port city of Chittagong when the curfew was lifted for 10 hours Saturday, according to local residents. They said at least eight people were injured.

About 600 officers in the merchant navy vowed to stop work until the state of emergency is lifted, the unofficial reports from Chittagong said.

Ershad, a 60-year-old former army general who seized power in a bloodless coup in 1982, imposed the state of emergency after six weeks of increasingly violent protest by opposition parties and university students demanding his resignation.

Under the emergency, civil liberties have been suspended, round-the-clock curfews imposed and censorship ordered for the news media. Newspapers have not appeared since Wednesday, because of a journalists' strike to protest the censorship.

The main opposition parties, whose leaders are in hiding, called a nationwide dawn-to-dusk strike Saturday to protest the state of emergency and to press their demands for Ershad to step down.

The government subsequently lifted the curfew from 6 a.m. to 4 p.m. (0000 GMT to 1000 GMT). At midmorning Saturday, the streets of the city of 7 million were jammed with people walking to work, said the unofficial reports. Office workers generally have reported to their jobs during the opposition's frequent calls, and Saturday was the monthly payday.

Around the city, small groups of protesters chanted "set fire to the throne of Ershad," before ducking out of sight when they spotted government patrols.

Riot police lashed out with steel-tipped clubs to disperse about 200 television and theatre actors who demonstrated outside the National Press Club in the centre of Dhaka, according to the unofficial reports. At least one person was seriously injured, these reports said.

Police patrolled the capital in jeeps, sometimes in convoys of six or seven vehicles, according to witnesses in Dhaka.

Support for the opposition parties' campaign to force Ershad to resign has reached a fever pitch since the eight-year-old leader seized power, according to the reports reaching India.

But defence analysts and diplomatic sources in New Delhi believe Ershad can ride out the storm as long as the armed forces stay loyal. So far there has been no sign of a revolt within the military, they said.

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